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Tributes to

Abraham Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources providing testimonials lauding the 16th President of the United States

Surnames beginning with

Hil-Hop

From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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Lincoln Lives

2.12.55

By Beacon Hill

There is nothing new to be said or written of Abraham Lincoln; but the tributes to his memory offered throughout the nation this month have value if they recall to this hurrying generation his calmness, balance, wisdom and character. Never were his characteristics more needed by this, or any other, country than today.

It is a notable thought, often expressed, of him that he combined in his character and in his career the two elements of destiny and achievement. It has been said of him, and repeated annually, that he was destined to save a nation. His death removed him when his work was incomplete; had he lived, historians believe, the difficult postwar work of reconstruction, of healing the wounds of fratricidal war and cemeting a nation torn asunder, would have been better done than it was in the hands of less able and less well balanced men than he.

Of the remembered lines of tribute to Lincoln are these in Governor Collidge's proclamation in 1919: "His presence filled the nation." So thoroughly was, and is, that so, that it is difficult to think of our country without thinking of him. He is a pervading spirit. From the inevitably bitter phases of that war the memory of him emerges as the leader, not of one part of the country but as the personification of all the country.

"In wisdom great, but in humility greater, in justice strong, but in compassion, stronger, he became a leader of men by being a follower of the truth." It is by his immortality as an American that Time has granted him his place, not as the leader of one part of the nation in conflict with another part of that nation; but as the personification of basic elements which were and are and ever must be the life of the whole nation.

The world today is rent in hesitating or apprehensive fragments of a whole that lacks peaceful cohesion; it seeks, but has not found, a denominator to unite all in the essential common purpose of human welfare. It was a distinction of Lincoln that he found a nation disintegrating, and from its warring parts re-created it into an understanding whole.

Lincoln was misjudged and misunderstood by some who should have had clearer vision in his lifetime; some of those, as they at last saw the light of his character, undertook to make amends. One of the most interesting of those was the recantation in London's Punch of the unfriendly words which that publication had printed in Lincoln's lifetime. His death suddenly opened eyes which had been clouded.

The editor of Punch was Tom Taylor. Punch had treated Lincoln shabbily, in word and picture. Most people have forgotten Tom Taylor — but for one bit of poetry which he wrote and produced in that publication on Lincoln's death. It is unique in literature:

"Beside this corpse, that bears
the winding sheet,
The Stars and Stripes he
lived to rear anew,
Between the mourners at his
head and feet,
Say, scurril jester, is there
room for you?
Yes, he had lived to shame
me from my sneer,
To lame my pencil and confute my pen—
To make me own this hind
of Princes peer
This rail-splitter a true-born
king of men."

Lincoln spoke many words of wisdom whose impact might be on the present as it was in the world about him in his lifetime. One quotation that comes to mind, surely pertinent today, is this:

"Let us have faith that Right makes Might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it."

Lincoln died 90 years ago; but the tributes we pay him today are to a living Lincoln.

Frederick Trevor Hill

LINCOLN'S LEGACY TO AMERICANS

How He Harvested His Experience.

IN seeking to interpret the careers of famous men, it is usually possible, and often not difficult, to trace out some dominating influence or discover some determining factor in their lives which reveals the secret of their success. The result, however, is rarely of any practical benefit to humanity. The circumstances that gave the impulse to such men or served to mold them are not, as a rule, within the experience of the ordinary individual. They are exceptional, extraordinary or hopelessly unique. The man who awaits some marvelous crisis in his life or expects some intervention of Providence, such as favored this or that historic character, deceives himself with false hopes. All the chances are against the repetition of the conditions which produced any particular hero.

But with Lincoln the case is very different. It is not possible to place a finger on any one fact in his history and declare with certainty that that was the inciting cause of his success, or to demonstrate that any special chain of events made him what he was. He was subjected to no great inspiring influence, no wonderful experience determined his life. His career was not a climacteric awakening—it was a natural development.

If this be true it practically eliminates the distinction between Lincoln the man and Lincoln the President, and disposes of the claim that his achievements as the head of the nation were due to the sudden enlargement of extraordinary latent powers. To some this offers the only rational explanation of his statesmanship. Despite the fact that he was over 50 years of age when he became President, and that his record was, up to that time, largely due to qualities which are part of the common heritage of all his countrymen, many of his eulogists cannot believe that these same qualities served to effect his historic results. No man, they contend, whose equipment was really on a plane with his fellows could possibly have accomplished what he did. Masters of men, it is asserted, are not molded from ordinary clay, and it is incredible that the great logician, resourceful diplomatist and guiding spirit of the Civil War lacked the intellectual endowments of genius.

Nevertheless, if Lincoln's achievements be carefully examined they will, in the final analysis, be found to rest upon moral qualities rather than mental attributes, and those moral qualities are all plainly discernible in the life training which fitted him for his great task. To assume that he suddenly developed brilliancy and revealed superhuman endowments at the call of high office is to ignore the man in the making and put a needless tax upon credulity. What was there in his services to the state that demands such a sacrifice of probability? The magnitude of his results should not exaggerate the means by which he effected them. The preservation of the Union and the suppression of slavery were not accomplished by an intellectual tour de force, and the great crises of the period were not met by masterly strokes of genius. It was Lincoln's daily example of resolution, fortitude, and patience that prevailed during the life-and-death struggle of the nation. It was the forbearance of the hour—the tact of the moment that molded the event.

During his whole life, prior to the presidency, he relied on the influence of simple virtues and their all-conquering power, and his handling of public questions, great and small, during his official career displays the same traits of mind and character. The country lawyer, whose sense of justice restrained his rapacious clients was the same man who, against his personal inclination and the heaviest of moral pressure, resisted every effort of the Abolitionists to deprive the South of her property without due process of law, and it was not until every legal expedient had been exhausted that he consented, as military commander, to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. The writer who produced the masterpiece of Gettysburg was not a literary genius, but one whose lips spoke what his heart suggested, and whose modesty and simplicity took this immortal form. In like manner all the episodes of his administration may be examined without disclosing anything which he accomplished by virtue of gifts of which the ordinary mortal need despair. What were the forces by which he effected what brainier men could not achieve?

He was unselfish. Is that an impossible virtue? He was simple and modest. Is talent required for that? He was sympathetic and considerate of others. No college or school teaches that. He was sincere in thought and action. No dramatic crisis brought this about. He was honest, cared little for money and much for honor. Dare anyone claim that this is beyond him? He was deliberate in judgment and long suffering in patience. Those are not intellectual achievements. He was temperate in word and deed. That is a matter of self-control. His triumph was the perfecting of qualities which all men may command.

If one could select some striking event and prove that it transformed Lincoln or directed his career, the story of his life might be more picturesque, but it would be of far less value. The events which shaped him were the everyday happenings of the dull, trivial round—the irksome details of routine. Those who fret because they seem to be wasting time over homely tasks, or despair of gaining anything from them, or are discouraged because they are not progressing fast enough, or are not receiving what they regard as "a fair chance in life" have something to learn from the pages of Lincoln's life. It was a wise as well as a subtle French philosopher who declared that "the time best spent is the time we waste." Doubtless Lincoln thought he was wasting time as a farmhand in the fields, as a clerk in Offutt's store, as the unsuccessful proprietor of a grocery, and at the end of his term in Congress it is well known that he regarded the years he had devoted to politics as time thrown away. Yet the years spent in the open air gave him the constitution of iron without which his great work could never have been accomplished; his experience as a clerk earned him the tribute rather than the nickname of "Honest Abe"; his incursion into the business world tested and tempered his honor, and the knowledge gained of local politics contributed essentially to his career.

There was not an experience in his entire life which may fairly be said to have proved a waste of time—there was scarcely anything which entered into or even touched it which he did not sooner or later turn to some account. During his career as President there were times when a highly cultured man with little or no real knowledge of the people would surely have brought disaster upon himself; again and again he utilized homely details and trifles of daily living which had sunk into his being and with which he had never consciously charged his mind. All his failures and disappointments bore rich harvests. No career ever more clearly demonstrated the value of "the little things that are not worth while," or better revealed the undreamed-of possibilities that lie within the humblest experience.

Lincoln contributed some wonderful pages to history, but other men have done that and the world, as a whole, has not greatly benefited. He won a place among the great rulers of the earth, but others have done that whose names have become mere memory tests, or whose deeds are chiefly recorded on blood-stained fields. He did much to preserve the Union and abolish slavery, but Generals and soldiers and a vast army of simple citizens supported him in the work, and are entitled to share in the glory. It is neither Lincoln the President—nor Lincoln the Master of Men—nor Lincoln the Savior of the State who is winning the hearts of more and more Americans every year. All that history could tell of the President was told many years ago. It is Lincoln the Man who is inspiring his fellows to-day—the man within touch of all the humble of heart. This is he who of all Americans is "leaving his impress upon eternity." * * *

FREDERICK TREVOR HILL.

L.N.L.

Hill, Frederick Trevor

LINCOLN'S LEGACY TO AMERICANS

His Struggle for Educat —How He Studied —His Career as an ntive to Others.

FROM the standpoint of history a century is but a yesterday, and a hundred years have not quite passed since Abraham Lincoln was born. Yet already myth, eulogy, tradition and romance are busy with his memory, weaving the mantle of Greatness about him in such fashion that all the rugged outlines of his very human personality may soon be shrouded from our view and the man himself translated to the realm of heroes whose development is a mystery and whose achievements are the despair of all ordinary mortals. There is very little incentive in the career of anyone whose success is inexplicable. Marvelously endowed individuals may excite our admiration or our wonder, but they do not afford much inspiration for the rank and file of struggling humanity.

But Lincoln was neither a heaven-born genius nor the miraculous product of chance. His lot was not cast among the favored few, but among men of common mold, and his life was lived, in no small measure, for the benefit and encouragement of his fellow-countrymen of average ability and ordinary caliber. There is nothing obscure about his development. All his achievements can be readily understood. They were the direct results of a mental and moral discipline and training to which any manly minded man may subject himself—not with the same political results, it is true, but with lasting benefit to himself and corresponding advantage to the community of which he may be a member. The results in Lincoln's case are for history and the historian; the processes by which he arrived at those results are for the individual—for the by-and-large of American citizens.

Few Americans of this day and generation begin life with the forlorn outlook which greeted Lincoln at his birth. It is well-nigh impossible to exaggerate the adverse conditions which surrounded him. The cabin where he first saw the light was not much more than a woodman's shack, with a flooring of hard earth, devoid of most of the comforts and many of the decencies of life. The land about it was practically an unreclaimed wilderness; the whole countryside was lonely to the point of desolation; each day was a dreary struggle for food. From almost every aspect poverty was his portion. It was not degrading poverty, because it was not dependent, but it was the sort that weakens self-respect and affords no prospect of escape.

But material poverty was not his most discouraging inheritance. His mother undoubtedly did her best to kindle a spark of ambition in her son, but she was an uneducated, delicate, and even sickly house drudge, who died while he was still a child, leaving him prone to the suspicion that he had an inherited tendency to consumption. His father was an illiterate, shiftless farmer and carpenter, without skill or training at either calling, who regarded education as a waste of time and would not permit the boy to attend school except at rare intervals. Indeed, the only effort he made to instruct his son was a half-hearted attempt to teach him carpentry, which was soon abandoned when he found that he could hire him out to other farmers in need of an extra hand.

Uninspiring as his home influence was, that of the neighborhood was even more so. There was practically nothing in his surroundings in Kentucky, or at Gentryville, Ind., where he lived after his mother's death, to touch the imagination of a growing boy or quicken his ambition. The country was sparsely settled and the life was not really living—it was an animal-like existence. Surely no American ever had better reason to complain of his chance in life. It was not a fair chance. It was practically no chance at all. But Lincoln was searching for opportunities, not excuses, and he found what he was seeking.

This was not the result of luck or favor or any consciousness of dawning powers. He was no inspired dreamer, who, in the midst of hard realities, saw a vision of coming greatness. He lived, not in the future, but one day at a time, and neither during this nor any other period of his life did Lincoln ever hurry. He had common sense enough to realize that his chance of advancement lay in education, but instead of fretting over the disadvantages under which he labored he endeavored to overcome them. Thus, while he performed the dull, routine tasks about his father's house and farm, he acquired the habit of thinking of others rather than of himself, until the neighbors gradually came to recognize that he was one of the few persons in the community who could be confidently relied upon for every sort of friendly office and kindness, from roofing a barn to rocking a baby. This was a very homely distinction, but it was quite as rare then as it is to-day, and though what he did was done without thought of a return it brought its own reward. People took an interest in this unostentatious, unselfish boy, and they loaned him their books with such freedom that he soon secured all that were available within a radius of many miles. It was no anointed youth, however, who pored over those volumes by the light of his father's fire, but a very practical young man who kept his ambitions well within bounds and was satisfied to progress step by step. Once he accidentally injured one of the borrowed books, and when the not too generous lender demanded compensation he worked out the damages at 25 cents a day in no saintlike spirit, but as a matter of justice, and this—one of the few well-authenticated stories of his early life—affords a clear glimpse of the man in the making.

Those who picture Lincoln as a precocious youth of angelic disposition do not understand his character at all. He was no more fond of hard work than other boys of his age, and he amused himself whenever he had the chance. But he did not waste his time. Dull as Gentryville, Ind., was, it had one red-letter day on its calendar, and that was the meeting of the Circuit Court at Boonville, fifteen miles away.

Thither Lincoln trudged to listen with rapt attention to the harangues of the backwoods lawyers, and watch with keen interest the drama of life as it was portrayed on that mimic stage, and there he doubtless received the first impulse to fit himself for the profession of the law. But this dream neither made him discontented nor restless. The idea of abandoning his home duties never crossed his mind. Unquestionably he could have bettered his chances had he followed his dawning ambitions instead of continuing to help his father amid discouraging surroundings and difficulties. Yet he remained at home and gave his family the benefit of his services until he was 21, up to which time he had earned practically nothing for himself.

But from nothing Lincoln was slowly but surely making something, and that something was character. From deprivation and want he was evolving helpfulness and unselfishness; from lack of opportunities he was developing modesty and resourcefulness; from sorrow and neglect he was acquiring sympathy; from solitude and simplicity he was learning the value of truth. For despondency and discontent he was fashioning humor; for lack of education he was providing a thorough knowledge of men; for luck and favor he was substituting courage.

"The little farm that raised a man," was not enchanted ground. The seeds that were sowed there are within the reach of all. Abraham Lincoln is an inspiring product of the soil. He is a prophecy for those who believe in their native land. * * *

FREDERICK TREVOR HILL.

Hill, Dr. John Wesley

Lincoln or Boone?

Louisville Courier-Journal

Dr. John Wesley Hill, chancellor of Lincoln memorial university at Harrogate, Tenn., proposes a carved giant bas relief figure of Lincoln on the face of Pinnacle mountain, at Cumberland Gap. The great natural sentinel beside the pass through which millions have ridden and marched forms an ideal background for such a memorial. But the question will arise immediately in the minds of many, "Is the selection of Lincoln appropriate?"

When Cumberland Gap is mentioned, the name of Daniel Boone instantly occurs. The famous mountain pass and the man who toiled through it to conquer and settle Kentucky for those who were to follow are inseparably linked in history. It was Dr. Thomas Walker, the first white man to traverse the gap, who gave the notch in the mountains its name, but it was Boone who had the vision, who dared dream of the vast rich territory beyond the mountains as a future home for a growing people, and who was the first to put such ambition into effect.

Lincoln never was in these mountains. He was of Kentucky, but of the other end of the state. His forbears did not pass through the gap, but came down the valley of the Ohio. The nation has made of his birthplace, an honored shrine. Boone's last resting place on an eminence above the Kentucky river at Frankfort—the river on whose shore a few miles further upstream he built Kentucky's second town—is marked by a modest stone memorial.

Boone it was, who when western colonization plans had fallen to nothing, when trans-Allegheny grants had become only "scraps of paper," and pioneering efforts were confined to timid settlements at Albany, Ft. Pitt and in Georgia, ventured, at first alone and later with six companions, to penetrate the vast wilderness where he felt that men could be free and had supreme faith in his own ability to win his way and felt that the trail he blazed was followed by those whose descendants peopled the whole northwest territory.

A sculptored Boone, in his coonskin cap, carrying his rifle and the "long knife" which gave him his Indian name, would make Pinnacle mountain a living memorial comparable with Lukeman's Stone mountain Confederate group and Mt. Rushmore, in the Black hills where Borglum plans to carve gigantic figures of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt. It was in Pinnacle's shadow that Boone paused to gaze on the fair land of Kentucky outspread before him. From its 2,500-foot peak the fertile plains of three states may be viewed. The spot is ideal for such a display, if its conglomerate rock is workable material. Its eminence is worthy of Lincoln, indeed, grotesque though the proposal be, but it is more appropriate to the man who led the great westward march of immigration into the "Land of Promise."

But, after all, why a man-made marker to the intrepid pioneer? In Pinnacle mountain itself a Boone memorial stands.

Hill, Dr. John Wesley

City Club Speaker Discusses "Modern Emancipator"

Dry Law and Commandments Not Entire Success

Plea Made for Memorial University Fund

"If Lincoln were here today he would stand by President Hoover on the Eighteenth Amendment and, while he might admit that prohibition has not been a complete success, he, also would tell you that the Ten Commandments have not been an unqualified success," said Dr. John Wesley Hill, chancellor of the Lincoln Memorial University, in his address yesterday at the City Club.

Dr. Hill is a guest at the Biltmore. He will be heard in addresses at the Woman's Breakfast Club at 9:30 a.m. today, at the Rotary Club luncheon at the Biltmore at noon tomorrow and at First Methodist Church next Sunday evening.

PROHIBITION DISCUSSED

Speaking on "If Lincoln Were Here Today," Dr. Hill said that Lincoln was a man who voted, spoke and acted according to his convictions.

"Abraham Lincoln dealt with fundamentals, with timeless things. Long ago he advocated a flexible tariff, adapted to the changing economic conditions of the country' and he was a forerunner and advocate of woman suffrage long before that question became an issue for the American people. He knew the difference between progress and mere motion. There is too much of the merry-go-round in much of our so-called progress today. Change is not necessarily progress, nor is destruction a sign of advancement. Witness Russia, with her Bolshevism."

Discussing prohibition, Dr. Hill said there can be no liberty without law and declared that democracy is in danger when men laugh and sneer at the Constitution as a document out of date. He quoted Lincoln as having said, in a speech in 1837. "The day will come when there will not be a saloon or a slave under the American flag."

PLEADS FOR FUND

"You may say we have blind tigers and speak-easies today instead of saloons," said speaker. "Yes, but we had them with the saloons in the old days. Before adoption of the Eighteenth Amendment there were more moonshiners and more moonshine liquor in New York City than in all of the Southern States. You had as well try to regulate a rattlesnake by pinching its tail as to attempt to regulate the liquor business."

Dr. Hill made a plea for an endowment fund for the Lincoln Memorial University at Cumberland Gap, Tenn., which was founded by Gen. Howard in 1897 and which gathers its student from all over the mountainous regions of the southern States. More than 85 per cent of the students, young men and women, are paying their way through the university, according to Dr. Hill.

H. Clay Best, now a guest at the Biltmore, is vice-chancellor of the Lincoln Memorial University and Orra E. Monnette is a member of the board of trustees.

BLAKESLEE

Hill, Dr. John Wesley

AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Eloquent Lecture by Rev. Dr. Hill on Abraham Lincoln

The Humble Beginning, Six Months' Schooling, Hard Labor and Determined Perseverance That Led Up to a Great Work and a Martyr's Grave

The service held at the First Congregational church last night in honor of the Lincoln centenary memorial, was one which will never be forgotten by the larg audience present. The church was filled with a deeply interested audience which were swayed into the spirit of the sixties and brought to the deepest love for the martyred President, Abraham Lincoln, by Rev. John Wesley Hill, D. D., L.L.D., pastor of the Metropolitan Temple, New York city.

The lecture was preceded by singing the hymn, "Ein Feste Burg," and the anthem, "Great is the Lord" by the church choir and a prayer offered by Rev. Samuel Dunham. The introductory remarks were made by Senator Harvey D. Linman, who presided. In brief he spoke of the fund that was left to the First Congregational church several years ago by Mrs. Crandal, for the purpose of helping young men in some worthy manner, and how it had been the thought of the Rev. John Randolph Smith that it could be placed to no better advantage this year than in observing Lincoln's birthday and inspiring the patriotism of the young men. He then introduced Rev. Dr. Hill, the speaker of the evening.

In acknowledgement of the introductionu, Dr. Hill expressed pleasure of being present at the occasion, and of his delight at being at the side of the pastor of the church once more, speaking in appreciative words of his acquaintance with Mr. Smith and of his characteristics in the Christian ministry, such as his power of organization and greater ambition to bring men and women into the church.

He opened his lecture by speaking of the rarity of real heroes in this rapid stage of the world, saying that only about once in a century did some really great man appear and that in each age three or four men of genius undertake to ascend. The world from below follow with their eyes and say: "How little they seem, but on and on they go." "These are world's peerless leaders. Look at them a moment," said Dr. Hill. Then me mentioned various heroes of history, in their arts, beginning in the time of the Scripture.

"These, he said constitute a dynasty alone. Look at Washington. He has been changed to a steel engraving and looks down at you from the wall. The fact that he never told a lie has been nearly buried under the lies told about him.

"He then plunged into the character of Abraham Lincoln, saying, in part:

"They attempt to rob the world of the real, honest Abraham Lincoln, and show a phantom of history. He was born in poverty, the proverty of the American wilderness, his school days less than six months, and his text-books less than half a dozen—the Bible, Easops' Fables, Pilgrims' Progress, History of the United States and Life of Washington.

"His Harvard was before the old-fashioned fireplace where he could stretch out from one side of the room to the other. Abraham Lincoln did not go through a university, but two or three universities went through him."

The "Abe" of old in "humspun" was vividly depicted and Dr. Hill said that "He was the chieftain of the woods yonder in the wilderness, he was bearing great burdens on his shoulders while his time was coming. Already the clouds were rapidly approaching." The picture of the future of this young lawyer were then pictured, together with the tragic scenes, though he did not see them.

The prosperous condition of the land was spoken of and of the three successful wars that had been passed, and the outward pressing of the population to the yet slightly explored lands of the west; the magic work of inventions, but after all of the feeling growing in the north at the unpaid labor and cruel treatment of the negroes as it spread towards the North and over the boundary line. The extension of slavery in 1854 into the bordering state was rehearsed and the struggles of the political forces of the North and South. The character of Stephen A. Douglas who thought that the public sentiment should decide this strife was described.

Dr. Hill said that "God always has the man for the emergency and that man was coming." He spoke of Lincoln's oath as a boy to down slavery if ever he had the opportunity, being prompted by a visit to the New Orleans slave market.

"This man came slowly forth, his face sad, clothed with the atmosphere of a man and uttered a single sentence that fell like a thunderbolt. All eyes were turned to Lincoln as the one man," said Dr. Hill.

Lincoln's answer to the sneering Douglas were spoken of and their effect upon the man and the people at large.

The next step in the address related to the great victory of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 when the nomination of a President was made at Chicago. He told of the balloting, and finally of the announcement for the salute that Lincoln was the nominee; how the people went wild and ran through the streets shouting, "Honest Old Abe," and of the battle cry which was chosen for the campaign, "Honest Abe Lincoln of Illinois"; of how the announcement was met by Lincoln, not untinged with sorrow, because he knew the important position in which he stood.

The audience was carried to the outbreak of the war, Dr. Hill saying, "But all in vain his tears of protestation, state after state ceeded, and for the first time in the history of the world, the oppressors themselves rebelled."

The conditions of the country at the opening of the struggle, of the empty treasury, etc., of the holding of the President to the one mastering purpose to save the Union and at last of the call of this great man for an army and of the response, an army which undauntedly passed through the rough country and came back victorious, were then described.

The latter part of the address was devoted to a tribute to the characteristics of the President, Dr. Hill saying impressively:

"It is difficult to characterize Abraham Lincoln, because the character is so simple and complete. It is like a great globe, always large on the side towards you. He was in all things a man, and in all times we will never see his equal again. Always simple, plain spoken, Honest Abe, clothed in simple life of sincerity, he was honest, he was honest as a politician, why, he was honest as a lawyer—he would never take a case unless his side was in the right."

"No man had a kinder humor, keener wit, he was solemn, the master of the story tellers' art, natural in speech, using any word he could imply as wit. He never told a story for the purpose of laughter. He was a great story teller, but you can no more compare his character by the stories than by yonder mountain.

"His great ambition was to pardon. How he loved to see the pearls of tears of the mother whose son he had saved—spectacles of sorrow nearly broke his heart. He could be stern if needed.

"You ask the reason of his power? It was his moral sense, common sense and reasoning sense and having them all he was Abraham Lincoln, and his common sense never deserted."

CONGER

Hill, Dr. John Wesley

Christianity of Lincoln Defined

At the Metropolitan Temple, Seventh avenue and Fourteenth street, last night, the Rev. Dr. John Wesley Hill preached on the subject, "Was Lincoln a Christian?"

After rehearsing the life of the Emancipator, he declared: "No, Mr. Lincoln was not allied with the visible Church—but measured by all the tests of the great, invisible and indivisible Church, by his faith in Almighty God, by his belief in Jesus Christ as the Divine Saviour of the world, by his confidence in the Bible as the word of God, by the persistence of his study of the Bible, by his sincere attempt to bring his life into harmony with the precepts of the Bible, by his simple and steady trust in an overshadowing Providence in the midst of the vicissitudes through which he passed, by his reproduction of the spirit of Christ, by the gentleness of his treatment of his enemies, by the patience with which he endured malicious treatment, by his reverence for the Sabbath day, by his devotion to the cause of temperance, and by his proverbial honesty to God, and country, and fellow man—I present Abraham hincoln as one of the best specimens of a Christian man that has ever lived in the White House."

Abraham Lincoln

2.12.1915 By JOHN WESLEY HILL

PROVIDENTIAL men are priceless. Their careers are the beacons of human progress. Their thoughts and deeds are the richest legacy of mankind. They are lights kindled upon the dome of the centuries, illumining the mental and moral atmosphere of the world. History is the story of their epochal deeds, and civilization the lengthened shadow of their exalted souls. Serving most, they are the greatest. They come at great intervals, representing vast issues, founding imperishable institutions and wielding an immeasurable influence. Only about once in a hundred years does some solitary prophet stand in our midst unannounced, proclaim his message as mysteriously as he arrived, leaving behind a memory half mortal and half myth.

Victor Hugo says, "The summit of the human mind is the ideal to which God descends and man ascends. In each age, three or four men of genius undertake the ascent. From below, the world's eyes follow them. "How small they are," says the crowd."

But on they go, by scarped cliff and yawning abyss, through storm and cloud and night, until they reach the summit, where they catch great secrets from the lips of God. We must look yonder, above the cloud line of history, if we would see them. Their's is a select circle of picked personalities. There is no primacy among them. Genius is equal to itself. They are all the greatest. There is no method for striking the balance between Abraham and Moses, or Homer and Shakespeare, or Cromwell and Wellington, or Washington and Lincoln!

They were Providential men. It is not easy to recognize a prophet. They do not wear the same robe nor work in the same role. The sheepskin mantle of John the Baptist is no more necessary to a modern prophet than is the bow of Ulysses to a modern soldier. Prophets come upon different missions; one as a patriarch like Abraham; another as a law giver like Moses; another as a warrior like Joshua; another as a disturber and avenger like Elijah; another as a reformer like Luther; another as a regenerator like Wesley; another as a patriot like Washington, and another as an emancipator and deliverer like Lincoln! Some one has said that "A saint is a good man dead one hundred years, cannonaded then but canonized now." It was Galilean who said, "A prophet is not without honor save in his own country." This is the history of all prophets. Stones have been their bed and bread. Lincoln was no exception to the rule. In his day he was slandered and maligned, criticised and cartooned, assailed and assassinated. Thus it has ever been. Aristides was banished because he was known as "Aristides the Just." A monument now stands upon the spot from which Bruno started heavenward in a chariot of fire. John Bunyan penned The Pilgrim's Progress, in a dungeon. Wellington was mobbed in the streets of London on the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo. Scipio Africanns, who defeated Hannibal at Zama, was arraigned by a factious mob and condemned to death. He repelled his accusers by reminding the people that it was an anniversary of the battle of Zama, and then he was permitted to go into voluntary exile, where he died.

Yesterday we called Washington a fastidious aristocrat, Lincoln a buffoon, and McKinley a designing imperialist. Today we set those men on Olympus with the gods and speak of them as patriots and prophets. For living prophets we have epithets; for dead ones, epitaphs. About living prophets we have opinions, about dead ones we have judgments; but they must be dead a long time—so dead as not to hear one word of praise, so dead that what we see is a specter rather than a palpitating personality. They must be dim, far away shadows, coming and going at midnight as at midday, taking up no space, disputing no ambitions, contesting no claims, awakening no resentments, so dead that we can get credit for magnanimity in the expression of deferred gratitude; so dead that where we begrudge bread we may lavish beatitude. It is too soon to measure Lincoln's real greatness. We must stand back from the mountain if we would behold its magnitude! The workmen on the walls of St. Peter's could not see the full glory of that temple which sprang from the brain of Michael Angelo and crowned the hills of Rome. Neither can we fully appreciate the symmetry and magnificence of the great personality that has risen in our midst and blinded our eyes with the brilliancy of his achievements—a man in whom the great qualities blended like the commingling of many streams—patience without indolence; meekness without stupidity; courage without rashness; caution without fear; justice without vindictiveness; piety without pretension; reason without infidelity; and faith without superstition—elements so mixed in him that great Nature might stand up and say, "This is a man!" Ay, and such a man that "Taken all in all, we shall not see his like again."

It is difficult to analyze the character of Abraham Lincoln. The soundings of a fathomless sea cannot be taken. We can only catalogue his leading characteristics. In mind, practical reason; in will, firmness; in moral nature, integrity; in religious duty, loyalty to duty; in emotional nature, love of family, fidelity to friends and sympathy with humanity; in faith, New Testament Christianity; in manner, simplicity; in bearing, dignity; in scholarship, a mastery of English and of statecraft; in the abiding motive for action, patriotism; in poise, absolute courage; in general make-up, preternatural endurance, and "in all things a man." There was nothing artificial about him. He had no uniform for state occasions. It was his desire to seem to be what he was, and to be what he was willing to seem to be. He was always simple, plain, straight-forward, outspoken, generous Abraham Lincoln, honest in thought, honest in heart, honest in life, towering in the greatness of his integrity above the baser instincts and lower motives of life, clothed in the simple light of sincerity and crowned with the jewels of exalted manhood. His genius was that of common sense; common sense in action, common sense in thought, common sense enriched by experience and unhindered by fear. He was common man, expanded into the proportions of a giant. He came up from the common people and was loved and honored by them with a devotion rarely bestowed upon mortal man. And all this was so American, so instinctive and illustrative of the realities and potencies of American democracy. Why, it really seems as if the angel of American democracy had with set purpose fashioned the child, the boy and the youth, so that when he should become his country's hero, taking his stand upon the lofty pedestal of history to receive for ages the homage of the civilized world, the majestic figure should stand forth as the supreme incarnation of America's social institution. And there he stands today, with democracy stamped upon his every feature, saturating his speech, vibrant in his every act, so democratic that America can no more forget democracy than it can tear to pieces the most glorious pages of its history or bury in oblivion him whom its very life forbids it to forget.

And so, in the order of Divine Providence, there comes a strange, fantastic, grotesque man from the tangled forests of the frontier, who strode upon the stage with the air of a Colossus, in whose presence the most conspicuous men of the time faded into comparative insignificance, while he demonstrated the glory of American manhood and by his devotion to the flag of representative democracy, secured and guaranteed the perpetuity of the meaning and mission of that flag. And what a glorious flag it is! The flag of Washington, Jefferson and Hamilton, the flag of Lincoln and Grant and Cleveland and McKinley, in the ample folds of which is written the story of our nation's greatness. It is no gala day banner, but a solemn signal, the symbol of national authority. It means all that our civilization means, that the school house is the bulwark of American liberty, the ballot box the ark of American patriotism, and the home the cornerstone of American civilization. It means protection to our citizens, at home and abroad, in St. Petersburg, Pekin, Tokyo and Constantinople, on every sea and every land beneath the stars. It means that anarchy and mobs are un-American, that dynamite is the weapon of the coward, and that person and property, life and liberty shall be inviolate among the people above whom it floats. It means that free education is the fortress of our free institutions, and that any assault upon our educational system is an assault upon the nation's life. It means that there is a legal remedy for every wrong; that reason is more to be desired than force, and that arbitration and conciliation must be adopted in the final adjudication of the controversies arising between labor and capital. It means the sanctity of our courts, the ultimate unit of absolutism of America, that the scales of justice shall stand between weakness and power, want and wealth, and guarantee simple equity to all. It means the right of property possession, that confiscation is incongruous with the safeguards of the constitution, and that whatever progress is made in the social world must be evolutionary rather than revolutionary. It means national honesty, that there shall be no knavery in politics, no betrayal of a political trust, nothing false or fictitious in business or finance, and that individualism and competition shall not be destroyed by collectivism and monopoly. It means national unity, that we are the citizens of one nation, North, East, South and West, and that bound together in such an indissoluble political compact, we stand for the peaceful adjustment of all differences at home and abroad. It means national hospitality, that we welcome to our shores all refugees from oppression, that our fireside is broad enough for every man who loves the flag; it also means that every gate should be locked against the representatives of anarchy and revolution, that every law should be enforced against sedition and crime, that our institutions must be honored and reversed by all, that we have room for but one class

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of citizenship in this country, viz: American citizens, and that foreign instincts conflicting with American ideas must be left across the sea.

This is the meaning of the American flag, that flag which is the symbol of liberty and equality, and which is the solemn signal of the unity and supremacy of the republic, the republic which is the monument of its defender and savior, Abraham Lincoln. Every stripe which composes it, and every star which shines in its canopy of blue is an immortal testimony to the incomparable service and deathless influence of Abraham Lincoln in the sacred cause of triumphant democracy. Truly he was God's elect. Circumstances did not create him; evolution did not evolve him; accident did not make him; history cannot explain him. Today, we pay tribute to his memory; the politician, blazing the way for freedom through the tangled forests of the frontier; the law maker in legislature and Congress, pursuing his convictions with unflinching zeal; the exalted statesman, excelling at the points of their greatness the most experienced and sagacious men of his time; the great president, sobbing amid the horrors of a bloody war; the unwavering chieftain, directing the issues of that war with the infallible instinct of victory, and last scene of all in this mournful drama, the Christian martyr, wrapped in the flag to which he had rendered the "last full measure of devotion"; statesmen his eulogists, nations his pallbearers, humanity his mourners; his sacred dust forever guarded by the twin angels of his immortality, liberty and nationality.

LINCOLN'S ANCESTRY

Not Especially Distinguished, but His Uncle Served in Legislature.

Abraham Lincoln's grandfather, also Abraham settled in Kentucky about 1780. Samuel Lincoln (1619-1690), the President's first American ancestor, was a son of Edward Lincoln, of Hingham, Norfolk, England, who emigrated to Massachusetts in 1637 as apprentice to a weaver. His son and grandson were iron founders. The grandson, Mordecai (1686 - 1736), moved to Pennsylvania. It is not discoverable whether the Lincolns were distinguished in any way, but it is certain that they possessed little wealth. The "Dictionary of National Biography" (British) has no record of them unless they are descendants of or connected with the earls of Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln's grandfather was a friend of Daniel Boone. He was killed by Indians in Kentucky in 1784. He had a small farm in that state. Lincoln's Uncle Mordecai was a member of the Kentucky legislature, and tradition gives him the reputation of an honorable and influential citizen.

After the grandfather was killed Abraham Lincoln's father became "a wandering laboring boy," who was left uneducated and supported himself by menial labor, but at twenty-five he had saved enough to buy a farm in Harding county.

AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Eloquent Lecture by Rev. Dr. Hill on Abraham Lincoln

The Humble Beginning, Six Months' Schooling, Hard Labor and Determined Perseverance That Led Up to a Great Work and a Martyr's Grave

The service held at the First Congregational church last night in honor of the Lincoln centenary memorial, was one which will never be forgotten by the larg audience present. The church was filled with a deeply interested audience which were swayed into the spirit of the sixties and brought to the deepest love for the martyred President, Abraham Lincoln, by Rev. John Wesley Hill, D. D., L.L.D., pastor of the Metropolitan Temple, New York city.

The lecture was preceded by singing the hymn, "Ein Feste Burg," and the anthem, "Great is the Lord" by the church choir and a prayer offered by Rev. Samuel Dunham. The introductory remarks were made by Senator Harvey D. Hinman, who presided. In brief he spoke of the fund that was left to the First Congregational church several years ago by Mrs. Crandal, for the purpose of helping young men in some worthy manner, and how it had been the thought of the Rev. John Randolph Smith that it could be placed to no better advantage this year than in observing Lincoln's birthday and inspiring the patriotism of the young men. He then introduced Rev. Dr. Hill, the speaker of the evening.

In acknowledgement of the introductionn, Dr. Hill expressed pleasure of being present at the occasion, and of his delight at being at the side of the pastor of the church once more, speaking in appreciative words of his acquaintance with Mr. Smith and of his characteristics in the Christian ministry, such as his power of organization and greater ambition to bring men and women into the church.

He opened his lecture by speaking of the rarity of real heroes in this rapid stage of the world, saying that only about once in a century did some really great man appear and that in each age three or four men of genius undertake to ascend. The world from below follow with their eyes and say: "How little they seem, but on and on they go." "These are world's peerless leaders. Look at them a moment," said Dr. Hill. Then me mentioned various heroes of history, in their arts, beginning in the time of the Scripture.

"These, he said constitute a dynasty alone. Look at Washington. He has been changed to a steel engraving and looks down at you from the wall. The fact that he never told a lie has been nearly buried under the lies told about him.

"He then plunged into the character of Abraham Lincoln, saying, in part:

"They attempt to rob the world of the real, honest Abraham Lincoln, and show a phantom of history. He was born in poverty, the proverty of the American wilderness, his school days less than six months, and his text-books less than half a dozen—the Bible, Easops' Fables, Pilgrims' Progress, History of the United States and Life of Washington,

"His Harvard was before the old-fashioned fireplace where he could stretch out from one side of the room to the other. Abraham Lincoln did not go through a university, but two or three universities went through him."

The "Abe" of old in "humspun" was vividly depicted and Dr. Hill said that "He was the chieftain of the woods yonder in the wilderness, he was bearing great burdens on his shoulders while his time was coming. Already the clouds were rapidly approaching." The picture of the future of this young lawyer were then pictured, together with the tragic scenes, though he did not see them.

The prosperous condition of the land was spoken of and of the three successful wars that had been passed, and the outward pressing of the population to the yet slightly explored lands of the west; the magic work of inventions, but after all of the feeling growing in the north at the unpaid labor and cruel treatment of the negroes as it spread towards the North and over the boundary line. The extension of slavery in 1854 into the bordering state was rehearsed and the struggles of the political forces of the North and South. The character of Stephen A. Douglas who thought that the public sentiment should decide this strife was described.

Dr. Hill said that "God always has the man for the emergency and that man was coming." He spoke of Lincoln's oath as a boy to down slavery if ever he had the opportunity, being prompted by a visit to the New Orleans slave market.

"This man came slowly forth, his face sad, clothed with the atmosphera of a man and uttered a single sentence that fell like a thunderbolt. All eyes were turned to Lincoln as the one man," said Dr. Hill.

Lincoln's answer to the sneering Douglas were spoken of and their effect upon the man and the people at large.

The next step in the address related to the great victory of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 when the nomination of a President was made at Chicago. He told of the balloting, and finally of the announcement for the salute that Lincoln was the nominee; how the people went wild and ran through the streets shouting, "Honest Old Abe,"

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and of the battle cry which was chosen for the campaign, "Honest Abe Lincoln of Illinois"; of how the annonncement was met by Lincoln, not untinged with sorrow, because he knew the important position in which he stood.

The audience was carried to the outbreak of the war, Dr. Hill saying, "But all in vain his tears of protestation, state after state ceeded, and for the first time in the history of the world, the oppressors themselves rebelled."

The conditions of the country at the opening of the struggle, of the empty treasury, etc., of the holding of the President to the one mastering purpose to save the Union and at last of the call of this great man for an army and of the response, an army which undauntedly passed through the rough country and came back victorious, were then described.

The latter part of the address was devoted to a tribute to the characteristics of the President, Dr. Hill saying impressively:

"It is difficult to characterize Abraham Lincoln, because the character is so simple and complete. It is like a great globe, always large on the side towards you. He was in all things a man, and in all times we will never see his equal again. Always simple, plain spoken, Honest Abe, clothed in simple life of sincerity, he was honest, he was honest as a politician, why, he was honest as a lawyer—he would never take a case unless his side was in the right."

"No man had a kinder humor, keener wit, he was solemn, the master of the story tellers' art, natural in speech, using any word he could imply as wit. He never told a story for the purpose of laughter. He was a great story teller, but you can no more compare his character by the stories than by yonder mountain.

"His great ambition was to pardon. How he loved to see the pearls of tears of the mother whose son he had saved—spectacles of sorrow nearly broke his heart. He could be stern if needed.

"You ask the reason of his power? It was his moral sense, common sense and reasoning sense and having them all he was Abraham Lincoln, and his common sense never deserted."

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Abraham Lincoln—To-day

The New York Tribune · 2-10-18

THE spirit of Abraham Lincoln, like government "of the people, by the people and for the people," has not perished from the earth. Perhaps the name of no other great American hero of the past has been so frequently on the lips of people during the present world struggle as that of Lincoln. This note of Lincoln's supreme contemporary interest was especially emphasized in an address delivered a few months ago by Dr. John Wesley Hill, chancellor of the Lincoln Memorial University, of Cumberland Gap, Tenn.—an institution, by the way, which is said to have been the first to respond officially to President Wilson's appeal for volunteers. The address above mentioned ran as follows:

"At the Battle of Marathon, the Athenians, outnumbered ten to one by the Persians, achieved a memorable victory and the salvation of their country, because, as the fable runs, the spirits of Castor and Pollux, their national heroes, led the Grecian charge.

"The annals of every people are full of instances showing how the inspiration of the heroic dead has stirred the hearts of patriots to noble and triumphant action.

"It has remained for America to produce a figure which, embodying the typical characteristics of our democracy, makes appeal to the sympathies and the aspirations of all mankind, wherever and whenever engaged in the struggles of liberty against despotism.

"In a very true sense, and it is perhaps the most striking fact in the entire history of the present war, the cause of the Allies finds its deepest inspiration in the character, the principles, the convictions, the utterance and the achievements of Abraham Lincoln.

"Lloyd George, the foremost English statesman of the day, finds the most perfect expression of the soul of the present contest for the enfranchisement of Europe in the words of our backwoods President, which he quotes as the justification of the Entente policy.

"In the opening paragraph of his inaugural address as Premier he says: 'I would like to quote the well known words of Abraham Lincoln, "We accepted the war for an object, a worthy object; the war will end when that object has been attained. Under God I hope it will never end until that time."'

"Those were the words uttered by Lincoln at the height of our own Civil War, and those are the words which are ringing out to-day over the world-wide battlefields of the present incomparable struggle, sounding the death knell of tyranny and ushering in the reign of liberty.

"It is noteworthy that the great Premier in making this quotation did not speak of 'Lincoln, the American.' Lincoln has outgrown the boundaries of nationality and towers as a world figure, standing in the forefront of a world crisis, his words full of world wisdom.

"When the eyes of the immortal emancipator closed in death, Stanton, his great war secretary, exclaimed, 'Now he belongs to the ages,' which was but another way of declaring, 'Now he belongs to humanity, because he is the enshrined reality of democracy.'

"And to-day the nations enlisted in the grim and final struggle against autocracy find their sustaining inspiration in the spiritual leadership of Abraham Lincoln.

"France, who copied our institutions in 1790; England, who has enfranchised her subjects; China, who arose against the Manchurian dynasty and built a republic moulded on the Constitution of the United States, gladly acclaim the democracy of Lincoln; while in the midst of the successful strivings of Russian democracy, up from the night of centuries of oppression, the bright guiding star which illumines its pathway and glorifies its goal has been the deeds and political creed of Abraham Lincoln.

"And it is the spirit of Lincoln which leads the United States to-day in the holy crusade of freedom in which we have enlisted, and it will be the 'Spirit of Lincoln in Arms' that will lead the Allied hosts to a glorious and final victory over the foes of democracy.

"And if you would know the secret of this invisible leadership; if you would find the only explanation behind this new and thrilling uprising among our own people for the protection of humanity, I have but to refer you to the two-minute address that Lincoln delivered at Gettysburg, which to-day belongs to the world.

"You remember those immortal words: 'The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what was done here.' And then he went on to express the hope that out of the blood of those who had given their lives for their country, 'this nation might have a new birth of freedom,' concluding with those words which President Wilson has already quoted and which every speaker everywhere during this war will quote. You remember them: 'That government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.'

"Ah! If Lincoln were here to-day—and I believe he is.

"Somehow I seem to see his serene spirit looking down upon us from the summit of these American centuries, and thus looking and listening he hears that prayer which he offered at Gettysburg now trembling upon the lips of all the liberty loving nations of the world, the prayer for a 'new birth of freedom,' and 'that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.'

"In the light of that prayer, my friends, it is not difficult to understand the meaning of this war, nor is it difficult to understand why we have enlisted in it.

"It is a war for the fulfilment of that prayer for a new birth of freedom, not only for our own, but for all the nations of the earth—the Allied nations, the neutral nations, yes, and even for Germany itself. Let us hope that this war will not cease until that prayer is answered."

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SAVE AMERICA BY 'LINCOLNIZING' IT

So Urges Dr. John Wesley Hill of Tennessee University

IDEALS TO BE REESTABLISHED

Leader Is Heard by Republican Government League

"We can save America by Lincolnizing America," Dr. John Wesley Hill, chancellor of Lincoln Memorial University, Cumberland Gap, Tenn., and prominent anti-Socialist leader, told members of the Republican Government League in the First Presbyterian Church House Friday afternoon.

The speaker pictured the university of which he is the head as the center of a nationwide movement which is seeking to reestablish in the hearts of American youth the ideals and the idealism of Abraham Lincoln, to give it Lincolnian principles as a measuring stick by which the proper, the really American attitude on public questions may be determined.

There is no security against the red stain of the French and Russian revolutions in bank credit, industrial output, superficial areas and extended geography, or in a flag that has ceased to be anything but colored bunting Dr. Hill maintained, "but there is security in the devotion of a people to fundamental ideas that have come down to us through such leaders as Abraham Lincoln, ideas of the divine right of liberty and man, of the sanctity of the home, of the inviolability of the Constitution and of the solution of every problem with 'charity toward all and malice toward none.' We can save America by Lincolnizing America. We can head off demi-gods by applying Lincolnian principles.

"We are at the crossroads and the United States must take the Lincoln Highway," the speaker advised. "We must leave the side of godless, crass, materialism, of agnosticism, of revolution, of Bolshevism and paternalistic socialism and take the Lincoln road to constitutional government, republican democracy and Christian civilization. We must follow Lincoln or Lenine. There is no halfway road."

Dr. Hill spoke of Lincoln Memorial University as the depository of Lincolnian ideals. "Its object is to establish better relations between the North and the South, to promote good citizenship—not sharp intellects, not smooth characters, not unusual society leaders, not even scholars, because an intellect sharpened on the wrong side is a menace, a curse."

He described the mountaineers which form the student body as six million side-tracked, bewildered, lost Americans unstained by materialism. "Thank God for the log cabin," he exclaimed, "there we may find the real American leaders. It is all right to talk of the melting pot, but we don't get our leaders there."

In adapting the principles of Lincoln to modern life, Dr. Hill maintained that were Lincoln alive today he would support a program for world peace, uphold law enforcement, keep prohibition, continue with woman suffrage and favor a protective tariff.

Principal Edward S. Babcock of the Utica Free Academy presided.

Abraham Lincoln

by

The Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis

A SERMON appropriate to Abraham Lincoln's birthday was preached in Plymouth Church yesterday by the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis. His subject was "Abraham Lincoln." The text was from the words in John 1: "There was a man sent from God." Dr. Hillis said:

The flight of the year has brought us to the Sunday before the birthday of Lincoln, now all but universally acclaimed as the greatest man the Republic has produced. The summit of the highest peak in the Alps, and indeed every mountain range, is nearly always surrounded by clouds. Now that sixty years have passed away, the misunderstandings have dissolved, and the two stars, Washington and Lincoln, shed their lustre, unstained by mist or cloud. As of Cromwell, so of Lincoln, time hath brought good fame. Critical of the north, during the early part of the Civil War, bitterly hostile to Lincoln, in 1861, the London Spectator, now as then, the leading literary journal of England, says of Lincoln's Second Inaugural, "We cannot read it without a renewed conviction that this is the noblest political document known to history," while the London Times begins its editorial with these words: "This is the most sublime state paper of the century." There was a time when the very skies rained lies and cruel slanders upon the worn and weary President. Just before his second election Ralph Waldo Emerson said: "Seldom in history was so much staked upon a popular vote.—I suppose never in history." Thus the very earth seemed to open its jaws and pour forth fiery invectives like unto lurid lava; now all clouds have cleared away.

Universal Praise.

The Great Emancipator sleeps today under sunny skies. The pathway to his tomb is worn by the feet of innumerable pilgrims. His statue, even in London, is never without its little handful of observers. Our millions of children and youth wear thin the page in the school readers that contains Lincoln's speeches. Orators of all parties wing their orations with feathers from his quiver. If the score and more of new biographies, published in as many languages and foreign capitals, mean anything, they mean that little by little Abraham Lincoln has become a wise moral hero, supplanting in the love of peoples even their own national heroes. The ever-increasing influence of the Man of Galilee does not rest upon the piteous tragedy of His crucifixion, but rather upon the eternal principles Jesus both taught and exemplified. And while the assassination of Lincoln had stirred the sympathy of all peoples, the hold of Lincoln upon the hearts of foreign folk is based not upon the fact that he was the most prudent of statesmen, the most successful of rulers, but upon the larger fact that he was the incarnate common sense of the universal man, the "Great Heart" who hath not only conquered the conscience, but captured the imagination of the common people, all colors and climes. At the moment of his death, Secretary Stanton exclaimed: "Now he belongs to the ages!" but he might well have added: "Henceforth Abraham Lincoln belongs to all the races and all the continents, for all time."

The Clarity and Intensity of Lincoln's Religious Faith.

Sixty-two years ago, at this very hour, February 11, 1861, Abraham Lincoln, standing at the end of a railway car, just before leaving a home in Springfield, to which he never returned, spoke to his old neighbors: "My friends, no one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived for a quarter of a century, from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born and here one has died. I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell." A naturally reserved man, disinclined to wear his heart upon his sleeve, as to his faiths, in a crisis, when he was leaving forever his old home, Lincoln spoke his deepest convictions out of his heart. Little wonder that Lord Charnwood in his biography of Lincoln says that no other modern statesman "uses so unreservedly language of intense religious feeling." Always, he would speak of prayer without the smallest embarrassment, in talk with generals and statesmen. In defending his course to a group of critics, he once said: "I know that there is a God, and that He hates injustice and cruelty. I see the storm coming, and I know that His hand is in it. If He has a place and work for me, and I think He has, I believe I am ready. I am nothing, but truth is everything. I know I am right, because I know that liberty is right. For Christ teaches it, and Christ is God. I have told them that a house divided against itself cannot stand, and Christ and reason say the same, and they will find it so." For a change had come over Lincoln's religious outlook. Through four years of unsurpassed trial his capacity had steadily grown, and his delicate fairness, his pitifulness, his patience, his modesty, had grown immensely. This man had stood alone in the dark. He had done justice; he had loved mercy; he had walked humbly with his God. And, therefore, he could write with perfect frankness to his old friend Speed: "I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this book upon reason which you can, and the balance upon faith, and you will live and die a better man." But Charnwood holds that Lincoln gave his supreme faith and love to what he called the true spirit of Christ, that he followed with all possible seriousness as the rule of his life. In retrospect, therefore, even the plainest man can read as he runs the story of Lonecoln's faith in God, His over-ruling Providence, His loving tenderness in answering prayer, His personal lead and guide, and his robust conviction that "while clouds and darkness are round about the throne of God, that righteousness and truth are the habitation thereof."

His Matchless Career.

In pathos and tragedy, his story is unequalled in all the history of misfortune touched with grandeur and sorrow mingled with absolute power. Not even the Carpenter of Galilee, cradled in a stable, entered life lower even than this child opening his eyes in a cheerless log cabin. History holds the story of none who passed from a cradle so humble to a throne so glorious. Looking upon his marred face, Lincoln seems the saddest, sweetest, bravest, gentlest, most picturesque and pathetic figure in human history. Matthew Arnold once celebrated Marcus Aurelius, the Roman emperor, as an example for the whole world to follow; but Marcus Aurelius drove to the temple of fame riding in a golden chariot, drawn by splendid steeds. Marcus Aurelius did not even have to knock for admittance, but found that the gates of the Temple of fame had been opened in advance for his coming, and that the keepers of the gate prostrated themselves to kiss the hem of his garment. Not so Lincoln's journey. He climbed steep hills, toward yonder heights where stood Fame's Temple! Sharp rocks cut his feet, blood reddened every step! Blind with pain, he carried his load; oft thorns tore his flesh; enemies beset his path; cold winds buffeted him. Oft his bread was crust, his garments torn. Never did a poor boy conquer so many obstacles, or a rich boy climb so high. Looking back, his little cabin shames our ceiled houses. His three or four books rebuke our listlessness midst vast libraries. His six months on a rude school bench rebukes our ignorance after 15 years in college. His humble poverty dims the lustre of our gold. His artless honesty condemns our political trickery. His patience midst 40 years of adversity, criticism and sorrow makes shameful our rebellion against brief moments of misfortune. The greatness of his soul has lent dignity and value to the millions of our struggling poor. His victory over all the besetments of poverty and adversity is like a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to guide the tired pilgrims across life's wilderness. But the glory of Lincoln is that he built, stone by stone, his vast career. Lincoln's character represents an achievement growing, thought by thought, deed by deed, battle by battle, after the fashion of the slow building of an enduring coral island, rising from the sea. Columbus saw a continent that he did not build. Isaac Newton discovered the movement of planets that he did not create. Watt and Fulton simply realized the force of steam which had always existed. Marshall found gold in California, but he did not create it. Most of the great names of the earth represent a discovery of pre-existing treasures, but Lincoln's fame rests upon this fact—he created his own continent and brought into existence his own achievement for mankind. More and more men are beginning to realize his unique supremacy, even though they do not know what makes this immeasurable supremacy. His era was an era of great men, an era of orators, Everett, and Phillips, Beecher, and Chapin; it was an era of soldiers, Grant, Sherman and Sheridan; it was an era of statesmen, Benton and Clay, Sumner, Calhoun and Webster. It was an era of authors, Emerson and Lowell, Hawthorne and Whittier, Prescott, Motley and Bancroft. And yet, as that distant horizon recedes the lesser names wane, like lowering foothills and yonder mountain peak waxes, a sunlit shaft from whose white summit clouds rise like incense from altars of ivory. Plainly Abraham Lincoln was the glory of his time, dear unto men and beloved of God!

The Minor Qualities of His Character.

Consider some of the lesser traits of Lincoln, often passed over by biographers. His patience, and capacity for waiting must be reckoned with. His weightiest utterance was kept back for two years after his debate with Douglas, at the urgent insistence of cautious friends. As early as 1857 he outlined privately to a friendly group certain great future reforms, including the abolition of slavery, and a prohibition law. He said that his mind had come to rest with fullest confidence upon the ultimate victory of these two inevitable reforms. But "All such questions must find lodgment with the most enlightened souls who stamp them with their approval. In God's own time they will be organized into law, and thus woven into the fabric of our institutions." But Abraham Lincoln could wait, being unwilling to waste his powder. "When slavery takes a turn toward ultimate extinction it will not be in a year nor in two years, or perhaps a hundred years." For a decision, however, on the principle of slavery Lincoln would not wait a day nor an hour, and the extension of slavery into Kansas must be stopped, because it was wrong. Concerning the Missouri Compromise and the laxity of conscience that made it possible, he said, "Little by little, but steadily as man's march to the grave, we have been giving up the old faith for the new faith." And at last after long waiting, Lincoln's patience conquered and won a victory. The candor of Lincoln is not less striking. During the struggles for Kansas, Lincoln wrote a friend opposing his position, but saying, "You are like the slave holders, who talk one way, saying that if Kansas votes herself a free State, you will rejoice in it, but I notice that you never vote that way, for your ballot opens Kansas to slavery." The fairness of Lincoln is so delicate and true that he does not outrage the feelings of his friends, and subscribes himself with this line, "Nevertheless, let me say, I am your friend forever. A. Lincoln." More striking still his candor concerning Henry Clay, when he said, "Clay loved his country, partly because it was his own country, and mostly because it was a free country." Once he risked his election by his candor, when his speech in favor of the abolition of slavery was interpreted to mean intermarriage between the races: "I protest against the counterfeit logic which says that since I do not want a negro woman for my slave, I must necessarily want her for my wife. I may want her for neither. I may simply let her alone. In some respects she is certainly not my equal. But in her natural right to eat the bread which she has earned by the sweat of her brow, she is my equal and the equal of any man." Lincoln's mental reserves and readiness to be convinced are other qualities of high praise. Then, as now, consistency is the stamp of mediocre minds. "Why, Mr. President," said one of his advisers, "you have changed your mind." "Yes, I have," said he, "and I don't think much of a man who isn't wiser today than he was yesterday." It is the characteristic of all great men that they grow as fast at 50 as at 5. If Lincoln started life with a natural bent toward honesty, courage, kindness, fair play, he became after four years strain, honest, brave, gentle, magnanimous to an almost divine degree. It was this that led Seward, one of the two or three ablest men in the land, to write his wife: "Executive force and vigor are rare qualities, and the President is the best of us."

Lincoln Has a Great Heart.

The greatness of Lincoln is also manifest in his self-restraint, his kindness and sympathy. During the last year of his life he was the most absolute ruler in Christendom. No czar, no ancient emperor, ever had such power for life or death. By a stroke of his pen Lincoln could open prison doors, or send men to the scaffold or firing squad. There is a latent despot in every human being. Millions deny the divine right to king, who in their own home circle, rule with an iron despotism that in a czar would break into butchery. The most accessible of the Presidents, Lincoln was also the most just, and

pitiful. American soldiers, reared in the tradition of personal liberty, are constitutionally opposed to military discipline. Once a Congressman forced his way at midnight into the President's bedroom, to insist that a certain deserter should not be reprieved, and received the decision, "Well, I don't see that it will do him any good to be shot." Once a farmer's boy from Vermont, after a long march in the Peninsula campaign, volunteered for double guard duty, to spare a sick comrade, slept at his post, was caught, and sentenced to death. Hearing the story, the President visited the boy, chatted about his home, looked at his mother's photograph, and then laid his hands upon the boy's shoulders, and said with a trembling voice, "My boy, you are not going to be shot. I believe you when you tell me that you could not keep awake. I am going to trust you and send you back to your regiment. But I have been put to a great deal of trouble on your account. Now, what I want to know is, how are you going to pay my bill?" Scott told afterwards how difficult it was to think, when his fixed expectation of death was suddenly changed; how he managed to master himself, thank Mr. Lincoln, and reckon up how, with his pay, and what his parents could raise by mortgage on their farm, and some help from his comrades, he might pay the bill if it were not more than five or six hundred dollars. "But it is a great deal more than that," said the President. "My bill is a very large one. Your friends cannot pay it, nor your bounty, nor the farm, nor all your comrades. There is only one man in the world who can pay it, and his name is William Scott. If from this day William Scott does his duty, so that when he comes to die, he can look e in the face as he does now, and say, 'I have kept my promise, and I have done my duty as a soldier,' then my debt will be paid. Will you make this promise and try to keep it?" And William Scott did promise; not very long after, he was desperately wounded, and he died, but not before he could send a message to the President that he had tried to be a good soldier, and would have paid his debt in full if he had lived, and that he died, thinking of Lincoln's kind face and thanking him for the chance he gave him to fall like a soldier in battle. That is a wonderful story of kindness and sympathy.

Lincoln One of the Two or Three Greatest Masters of English Prose.

Any skeptic who doubts the supremacy of Lincoln as a master of prose style has only to place his second inaugural, or indeed, his first, or any of his important state papers, side by side with the messages of foreign ministers, or our own Presidents, to discover that the all but immeasurable superiority of Lincoln's thoughts and words. If poets are born and not made; if eloquence is a gift from one's fathers, that may be developed, the mastery of a musical and clear prose is a birth endowment. Perfect prose is the outer verbal photograph of an inner reality of truth. Bunyan, Hooker, and Lincoln, alike, were born with this mastery over the materials, just as Rembrandt ruled his colors, and as Rodin mastered his marble. The editor of the London Spectator was not an American when he pronounced Lincoln's Second Inaugural "the noblest State document in history." In his first Inaugural, Lincoln began with an axiom of universal acceptance, and then followed with 24 more principles that are as logical in their flow, one from the other, and as inevitable as the forward movement of a great river, but with this difference, his logic is turned to lightning through moral passion. In the Second inaugural, Mr. Lincoln tells his countrymen the story of four years of agony; "the whole tale of the nation's shame and misery, of her heroic struggles to free herself therefrom, the passion of love which he felt for his country, his joy in her victory, his sense of tenderness for those who had fallen, his pity mixed with sternness for the men who had deluged the land with blood," and yet under the pressure of these vast emotions, he was full master of the noblest thoughts ever conceived, and of emotions that swept through his heart with the majesty of a mighty wave or a winter's storm. No address is now so fully remembered, so often quoted, or so highly praised. What passage in the whole history of national crisis can equal this? "If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offences which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through the appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offence cometh, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue, until all the wrath piled by the bondsman in 250 years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn by the lash shall be paid with another drawn by the sword, as was said 2,000 years ago, so still it must be said, the judgments of the Lord are true and righteousness altogether.

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right—let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, to care for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

Providence fulfilled his desire. The mighty scourge of war did pass away. Lincoln lived long enough to receive the surrender of Lee and Davis, and to watch the flag of the Union unfurled above the capitol at Richmond. He lived to see his Emancipation Proclamation embodied in the Constitution and, when he fell by a madman's bullet, he conquered from the ex-President of the Southern Confederacy, the confession that his assassination was the heaviest blow ever received by the people of the South, since Lincoln was the only sincere and powerful friend whom the Southerners had among all their conquerors.

*See the Personal, Reminiscences of Lincoln and His Times, by E. R. Kennedy, to whom I owe many facts and suggestions concerning the character and career of Lincoln.

Dr. Hillis broadcasted this sermon at 2:40 p.m. yesterday afternoon. Next Sunday afternoon he begins to broadcast his "Better America Lectures," that will continue for some weeks.

(Tribune)

Hillis, Newell Dwight

HILLIS' TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN

In the centennial year of Lincoln's birth, Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, dedicated three memorial windows—one to Washington, one to Lincoln and one to Henry Ward Beecher, the war-time minister of that historic church. Lyman Abbott delivered the sermon. The pastor, Newell Dwight Hillis, gave the address of dedication. In it he paid Mr. Lincoln one of the most beautiful and touching tributes to be found in the English language.

He said in part:

"The divine Teacher and Savior of the world was born in a stable and cradled in a manger, and, like his Master, Abraham Lincoln was reared in adversity and nurtured by suffering. When God wanted a hero strong enough to free three million slaves, He passed by the purple palace with its silken delights and searched out a log cabin. There He took a little child into His arms and gave it into the arms of the Angel of Sorrow and Suffering, with this charge: 'Take thou this well-beloved child of mine. Plant his pathway thick with thorns and cutting rocks; load his little back with burdens and make him strong for service; take from his arms all that he loves, that he may have sympathy and be as sensible to the moan of a slave as a thread of silk in the window to the softest breeze that blows. Plow his face with lines of sorrow and make him more marred than any man of his time, and when the pilgrim host can discern his red footprints up the hills of time, when he is sympathetic to sorrow and strong for burden bearing, bring him back to My throne and with him I will free three million slaves'—that is how God reared Abraham Lincoln."

Both Lyman Abbott and Newell Dwight Hillis have long since gone on to join the cloud of witnesses, the saints, scholars and patriots held in such high esteem by Plymouth Church. The windows endure; the words of Dr. Hillis shine like myriad stars just before the bluish darkness of early morn gives place to radiant dawn.

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Hillis, Rev. Dr. Newell

Dr. Hillis' Sermon---C

Abraham Lincoln;

by

The Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis.

YESTERDAY morning the Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, pastor of Plymouth Church, preached on "Abraham Lincoln," a notably strong sermon. The text was in the words: "And his sword was dipped in heaven." Dr. Hillis said:

We are here to celebrate the centennial of the martyred President, who helped us nobly save the last, best hope of earth, by giving liberty to the slaves, that he might assure freedom to the free. Take him all in all, Abraham Lincoln is the greatest thing this republic has produced. Indeed, history tells of no child who passed from a cradle so humble to a grave so illustrious. The institutions of the Republic were founded for the manufacture of a good quality of soul. In the presence of the great men of the world we can point with pride to Lincoln, saying, "This is the kind of man the institutions of the Republic can produce." For Lincoln's most striking characteristic was his Americanism. At best, Washington was a patrician, the product of aristocratic institutions, so that England claimed him. Washington was the richest man of his era, his home an old manor house, his estate wide ancestral acres, his relative an English baronet, his brother the child of Oxford University. The root was planted in English soil, though it fruited under American skies. But Americanism is the very essence of Lincoln's thoughts, Lincoln's enthusiasm, Lincoln's speeches, Lincoln's character. One of the golden words of the Republic is the word "opportunity." All the highways that lead to office, land and honor must be open unto all young feet. A banker's son may climb to the governor's mansion, or the White House, but so may the washerwoman's. The widow's son practices eloquence in the cornfields of Virginia, but he has ability and patriotism, and we bring Henry Clay to the Senate chamber. A child out in Ohio goes barefooted over the October grass, driving an old red cow to the barn lot, and we bring McKinley to the White House.

Yonder stands the Temple of Fame, with a door that is open by day and by night, and a tall, thin, sallow boy turns his back upon a log cabin in Illinois and knocks for entrance at the Temple of Fame, and lo, the angel at the threshold asks hard questions, "Can you eat crusts? Can you wear rags? Can you sleep in a garret? Can you endure sleepless nights and days of toil? Can you bear up against every wind that assails your bark? Can you live for liberty and God's truth, and can you die for them?" And that boy bowed his assent. Washington climbed hand over hand up the golden rounds of the ladder of success, Lincoln built the ladder up which he climbed out of rails which his own hands had split. Like his Divine Master, he touched two or three crusts and turned them into bread for the hungry multitudes. His little log cabin shames our palaces. His three books eclipse our libraries, his six months in a log school house were more than equal to our eight years in lecture hall and library. His fidelity to the great convictions shames our shifting politicians. For fifty years he walked forward under clouded skies. Like Dante, he held heartbreak at bay. During one brief epoch only did his sun clear itself of clouds. He died without recognition or reward. In retrospect he stands forth the saddest and sweetest, the strongest and gentlest, the most picturesque and the most pathetic figure in our history. The Saviour of the world was born in a stable and cradled in a manger, and went by the Via Dolorosa toward the world's throne. Not otherwise Abraham Lincoln was born in a cabin, more suited for herds and flocks than for a young mother and a little child; and by the way of poverty and adversity the great emancipator traveled toward his throne of influence and world supremacy.

An Era of Great Men.

History holds a few deeds so great that they can be done but once. There are some laws, some reforms and some liberties that once achieved are always achieved. Thus, an Italian discovered this new continent, but his achievement reduced all the other explorers to the level of imitators. Thus Isaac Newton discovered gravity, and in a moment every other astronomer became a pupil and a disciple. There never can be but one James Watt, for, though a thousand inventors improve his engine, their names are little tapers, shining over against the sun. The last century offered men of genius two signal opportunities, and there were a thousand eager aspirants for the honor. Charles Darwin discovered the golden key that unlocked the kingdom of nature and life, and carried off all the honors of science. Abraham Lincoln, in an hour when some would meanly lose it, planned to nobly save the Union, and emancipated three million slaves, and carried off the honors in the realm of reform and liberty. How great was the work he did, and how supreme was the man himself, we can best understand by comparison and contrast. Among small men it is easy to be great—in Patagonia, where everybody eats blubber.

Anybody can be a giant in heroism and reform among Hottentots and South Sea savages. But the era of the Civil War was an era of giants. Great men walked in regiments up and down the land. It was the age of Daniel Webster, whose genius is so wonderful that he achieved the four supreme things of four realms, the greatest legal argument we have, the Dartmouth College case; the greatest plea before a judge and jury, the White murder case; our finest outburst of inspirational eloquence, the oration at Bunker Hill; the greatest argument in defense of the Constitution, his reply to Hayne. For two hours Lyman Beecher sat reading Webster's reply to the eloquent Southerner. "What do you think of it, Dr. Beecher?" "What do I think of it?" exclaimed Lyman Beecher, springing to his feet, lifting the paper in his hand, "I think it is a red hot cannon ball, going through a bucketful of eggshells." It was the age of John C. Calhoun, a logician, who could prove to the faculty of Yale College that shad grew on apple trees.

It was the era of Seward, the all-round scholar, of Chase the greatest secretary of treasury since Alexander Hamilton, who struck the rock with the rod of his genius, and made the waters of [illegible]e flow forth from the desert. It [illegible]e age of our greatest orators, for [illegible]ell Phillips and Beecher were at their [illegible]. It was the era of Emerson, the [illegible]osopher; of Theodore Parker, the re[illegible]mer; of Garrison, the abolitionist; of Lovejoy the martyr; of Lowell and Whittier, the poets of freedom; of Greeley, the editor, it was also the age of our greatest soldiers, Grant and Sherman, and Sheridan and Lee. The great man is a form of fruit ripened in an atmosphere made warm and genial, and the climate that nurtured Lincoln's genius unfolded the talents that represented other forms of mental fruit. Among these men Lincoln lived and wrote and spoke, and suffered and died, and he stands forth a master among men, one of the five supreme statesmen of all history.

The Cause of the Great Conflict.

Now if we are to understand the unique place of Abraham Lincoln in our history we must think for a moment of the men who set the battle lines in array. Unfortunately, most of our histories tell our children and youth that the Civil War raged about the slave. As a matter of fact, slavery was the occasion of the war, but not the cause. Slavery was the sulphur match that exploded the powder magazine, though the powder magazine could have been set off by a spark from the flint and steel, or a hundred other methods. The Civil War was really fought over the question whether a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are equal could permanently endure. The whole period from 1789 to 1865 was a critical period, during which the Constitution was being tested and tried out.

During this testing many forms of secession were planned, and several rebellions actually took place. In 1787 there was a rebellion under Shay, over the question of taxation. In 1830 to 1835 there was a secession movement on in South Carolina, and President Jackson put down that rebellion over the tariff. Then Daniel Webster marked out the final lines of battle. Webster fired the first shot of the war, whose last shot was fired at Appomattox. Webster carried the flag that Grant followed at Vicksburg, and shook out the folds of the banner that was crimsoned with blood at Gettysburg.

It was Webster's banner that Major Anderson pulled down at Fort Sumter, under the stress of fire, and it was Webster's banner that, four years later to an hour, the same General Anderson pulled up on the same flagstaff, the same flag at the same Fort Sumter. During the thirties and the forties, the conflict was a

conflict of words and editorial arguments, between men like Calhoun, and Garrison and Phillips. Later, the conflict took on the form of a guerilla warfare, and here and there leaders like Lovejoy were martyred. Later, the strife entered into politics, and Douglas and Lincoln struggled for the supremacy of their principles.

At length the conflict entered the church, and the American Tract Society, to hold the gifts of slave owners, forbade the distributions of Testaments to slaves, while the Bishop of New Jersey destroyed an edition of the Prayer Book because it contained a picture of Ary Scheffer's picture of "Christ the Emancipator," who was engaged in bringing slaves out of their dungeons. The bishop was quite willing that Christ should open the eyes of the blind, make the deaf to hear and the lame to walk, but as for Jesus freeing the slaves—well, that was too much. So he destroyed the edition and had a new plate made, in which Jesus was peeled of His power to free slaves. The whole land rocked with excitement. Liberty and Slavery, like two giants, grappled for the death struggle. Soon God anointed men with the ointment of war, black and sulphurous. In such an era God raised up Abraham Lincoln, to lead the people out of the wilderness, and into the Promised Land of Union and of Peace.

Lincoln's Early Surroundings.

Never was a candidate for universal fame born under so unfriendly a sky. His annals are "the short and simple annals of the poor." His home was a log cabin that had but three sides, the fourth one being a buffalo robe, swaying to and fro in the wind. When the biting wind of poverty became unbearable in Kentucky, the scant possessions were loaded upon a horse, carried across the Ohio, and the child walked barefooted through the forests of Indiana, where a new shack was built in the wilderness. There the Lincoln's angel mother sickened and died—that mother to whom Lincoln said he owed all that he was or hoped to be. Then when the winter of poverty and discontent settled down blacker than ever, the father removed to another state, where the mud was deeper, and the winters colder, where nature was less propitious. Lying on his face, before blazing logs, the boy committed to memory the four Gospels, "Aesop's Fables," and Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress." At nineteen he went to New Orleans, and standing in the slave market saw a young girl sold at public auction, and told his brother, Dennis Hanks, that if he ever had a chance he would hit slavery the hardest blow he could.

At twenty he split 1,200 rails for a farmer, whose wife wove for him three yards of cloth, dyed in walnut juice, with which he had a new suit of clothes. He started a little store, failed in business, became a surveyor, bought a copy of the Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of Independence; was made postmaster; several years later returned to the govenment agent the exact silver quarters and copper cents that he had kept tied up in a bag, because the identical coins must be returned to the government; entered upon his debate with Stephen Douglas; delivered the "house divided against itself cannot stand" speech; made the issue between liberty and slavery so clear that a wayfaring man, though a fool, could not misunderstand; declared that if slavery was not wrong, there was nothing that was wrong; came to be looked upon as the one man who each year would coin the happy phrase and the rythmical watchword that would be taken upon the lips of 30,000,000 of people; was made the leader of the new "party of freedom"; with infinite skill and patience, entered upon the task of proving that he was the strongest man in his Cabinet, the strongest man in the North, the strongest man in the country, and the only man who had the last fact in the case, and therefore had the right to rule. Seward began by delicately hinting to Lincoln that if he felt himself unuqual to the Presidency, he could resign, and that he, Seward, would not evade the responsibility.

Lincoln answered by reading Seward's statement of a possible measure, and then placing beside it a statement of his own that reduced Seward to the level of a schoolboy standing up beside a giant. Then Stanton entered the lists as competitor, and quietly Lincoln asserted himself until Stanton's attitude became one of almost reverent worship, as he said of Lincoln, "Henceforth he belongs with the immortals." Then Greeley put in his claim for supremacy, and after Lincoln had published his answer, to Horace Greeley, in lines as clear as crystal, and in words as gentle as sunbeams, not a man in the land but saw that Lincoln was intellectually head and shoulders above Horace Greeley. One by one and step by step he ascended the hills of difficulty. Round by round he climbed the ladder of fame. And now comes this day and week of celebration, when all the wheels are still, and all the stores and factories are silent, when eighty millions of people are gathered into one vast audience chamber, when one name is upon all lips—the name of Abraham Lincoln, the emancipator of the slaves, the acknowledged master of men, who gave liberty to the slaves that he might assure freedom to the free.

Lincoln's Ancestral Making.

Thoughtless writers have talked Lincoln's ancestory down, and careless biographers have defamed him. Superficial students speak of him as a miracle, and say that his genius is surrounded with silence and mystery. But all that Abraham Lincoln was he had at the hands of his fathers and his mothers. Although their greatness was latent, his parents had as much ability in their way as their distinguished son had in his way. How do I know? Because when God wants to call a strong man He begins by calling his father and mother. There never was a great man who did not have a great ancestry, even though the greatness may have been latent and unconscious. Every strong man stands up on the shoulders of his ancestors. When you start for the top of Pike's Peak you start at Omaha. When you reach Denver you are six thousand feet in the air, and Pike's Peak is shouldered up on the foothills. Socrates is a great teacher, but look at Sphoroniscus, the sculptor, his father. Paganini is a great musician, but Paganini was born of musicians whose wrists had muscles that stood out like whipcords.

Bach is a great musician, but there were forty people of the name of Bach mentioned in musical dictionaries. Charles Darwin is the great scientist, but there were four generations of scientists who had made ready for Darwin, just as there were seven generations of scholars that culminated in Emerson. And standing in the shadow behind Abraham Lincoln are half a dozen generations of men and women who handed forward to him a perfect logic engine, a sound mind, in a sound body; a mental instrument that worked without fever and without friction and without flaw. At the hands of Stradivarius one piece of apple wood is fashioned into a violin. If Stradivarius passes by the other board because he has not time, let no man say the board that was undeveloped was not full of latent music. The Divine Artist and Architect shaped Abraham Lincoln's nature into a world instrument, but the same quality and the stuff were in his father and mother, who lived and died a handful of blossoms that never fruited, and a bundle of roots that were never planted.

"Lincoln's father and mother were like the crystal caves in their own Kentucky. Lecturing there recently I saw a cave of diamonds, newly discovered. One day a farmer plowing, thought the ground sounded hollow. Going to the barn, he brought a spade and opened up the aperture. Flinging down a rope, his friends let the explorer down, and when the torches were lighted, lo, a cave of amethysts and sapphires, and diamonds! For generations the cave had been undiscovered and the jewels unknown. Wild beasts had fed just above these flashing gems, and still more savage men had lived and fought and died there. And yet just beneath was this cave of flashing jewels. Oh, pathetic illustration of men who are big with talent, of women full of latent gifts, of fathers and mothers like Thomas Lincoln and his young wife, who struggle on without opportunity, who are denied their chance, who are imprisoned by poverty, and fettered by circumstance, who are like birds beating bloody wings against the bars of an iron cage, who die unfulfilled prophecies, and dying, transfer their ambitions to their gifted children, believing that their son shall behold what the father and mother must die without seeing. God worked no miracle in Abraham Lincoln.

There is a photograph of the signature of the grandfather upon a title deed in Culpepper County in Virginia. Now, place that signature side by side with the signature of Abraham Lincoln on the emancipation proclamation, and the strong sinewy sweep in the signature of the grandfather comes down and repeats itself in the strong sinewy sweep of the grandson. And perhaps the strong sinewy sentence comes down and repeats itself also, for all fine thinking stands with one foot on fine brain fiber. The time has come for men with a sharp knife and a hot iron to expunge from two or three of the otherwise best biographies of Abraham Lincoln these false, superficial and ignorant statements about his ancestry. Science, observation, experience, history and the facts all unite to tell us that whatever was great in its unfolding in the talent of Abraham Lincoln was great in the seed form in his father and mother.

His Unique Supremacy.

Where were the hidings of his power? Why is Lincoln revered above his fellows, the orators, the soldiers, and the statesmen and editors and secretaries of his time? A single contrast with the other great men who were his competitors for fame will make Lincoln's supremacy to stand forth as clear in outline as the mountains, and as bright as the stars. For example, Wendell Phillips was the agitator and orator of the abolitionists. Phillips said, "Emancipation is the essential thing. The Union secondary. If the Southern States will not emancipate the slaves, force them out of the Union." Horace Greeley was the editor of the war epoch. Greeley said, "Emancipation is first, the Union secondary."

"Let the erring sisters go." Beecher was the all-round man of genius. His great speech in England began with an exordium at Manchester; he stated the arguments at Edinburgh, Glasgow and Liverpool; he pronounced the peroration at Exeter Hall, in London, and no such peroration and eloquence has been heard since Demosthenes' philippic against the tyrant of Macedon. But Beecher's criticisms of Lincoln in the New York Independent during April and May of 1862 led Lincoln to explain after reading one of them, "Is Thy servant a dog that he should do this thing?" If these men did not appreciate the national crisis, Lincoln understood it perfectly. Now, over against the editorials of Beecher and Horace Greeley and the lectures of Phillips, stands Lincoln, and to these three men he sent words addressed only to Horace Greeley, explaining to them why the time had not come for the Emancipation Proclamation.

I would save the Union.

If there be three who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time same slavery, I do not agree with them.

My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and not either to save or destroy slavery.

If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it.

If I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it.

And if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that.

What I do about slavery and the colored race I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union.

I shall do less whenever I believe that what I am doing hurts the cause.

And I shall do more whenever I believe that doing more will help the Union.

How wonderfully does this publish the supremacy of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln saw clearly where others had an indistinct vision. As to gravity, Isaac Newton's vote outweighs all the other mill-

ions of men, and from the hour that Lincoln published this letter to Horace Greeley the people saw that Abraham Lincoln had the last fact in the case, saw the whole truth, saw it through and through. By sheer power, clarity of thought, strength of statement and fairness, Abraham Lincoln finally won over not only a lukewarm North, but a bitter South, until to-day he belongs to the eighty millions. If every Northerner should die, the brave and patriotic men of the South living now would defend everything for which Abraham Lincoln lived and died. For at last it is true of both North and South that the mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be by the better angels of our nation.

Dr. Hillis then discussed the honesty and fidelity of Lincoln as the keynote of his character. 7. He made a study of what the teachers named Suffering and Sorrow had accomplished in the way of making Lincoln sympathetic toward the slave, and illustrated that sympathy from various speeches of Lincoln. 8. He also analyzed Lincoln's supreme literary achievements, and made a study of Lincoln's style in his second inaugural and the speech at Gettysburg. 9. He analyzed Lincoln's wit and humor in relation to Cervantes, whose laughter scal[illegible] like tears. 10. The conclusion of his addres was a study of Lincoln as the man [illegible] sorrows, the most tragic figure [illegible] time.

CONGER

Hinckley, F. R. (Rev.)

LINCOLN'S LEGACY TO HIS PEOPLE

An Estimate of the Great Emancipator by the Rev. Frederic A. Hinckley.

In the Unitarian Church, on Sunday last, the Rev. Frederick A. Hinckley took as his subject, "The Legacy of Abraham Lincoln to the American People." He said:

Next Thursday is the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. A few of us, who visited the White House one morning several years ago, heard the attendant in the East Room, then eighty years old, tell with a touch of reverence not to be forgotten, how when Lincoln made the last speech of his life (from a window, which he pointed out) to the crowd waiting outside, he held the light that the face and figure of the President might be seen. I could not help think, as he told the story, that his own feeling was typical of a certain tenderness and reverence with which all true Americans regard the memory of Abraham Lincoln.

This tenderness and reverence are not accounted for by the fact that Lincoln was President, not even by the fact that his name was signed to the Emancipation Proclamation, nor yet by that other fact which always gives men a sacred place in the Pantheon of history, the crowning glory of martyrdom. The real, and most precious legacy of this man to those of his own time, and to future generations, is found in his personal character, its humble origin, the process of its growth, and its final exaltation among men.

Worth of Human Nature.

America is a nation of the people. Heredity is not a determining fact with us, though in moments of deflection from our high standards, it may seem so. It is our ideal to live here what Burns sang, the worth of human nature as human nature.

" What tho' on homely fare we dine,
Wear hodden grey, and a' that;
Gie fools their silks and knaves their wine,
A man's a man for a' that;
For a' that, and a' that,
Their tinsel show, and a' that;
The honest man, though e'er sae poor,
Is king o' men for a' that.
"Then let us pray that come it may,
As come it will for a' that,
That sense and worth o'er a' the earth,
May hear the gree, and a' that.
For a' that, and a' that,
It's coming yet, for a' that—
When man to man the world o'er,
Shall brothers be for a' that."

Way down in the hearts of all lovers of the democratic ideal, has always been the dream, that somehow America would actualize the seer's vision.

Abraham Lincoln in his own person was the personification and the realization of what Burns sang, and what from the signing of the compact on the Mayflower to this very day, has been the American dream.

Lincoln's Life.

He was born in poverty. In all his early days he was surrounded by poverty. According to old world standards the great opportunities of life were not for him. There was no royal blood in his veins. He was not the child of wealth. He was a hard-handed son of toil, whose destiny was to wring from nature a scanty return for his efforts. From this humble beginning he worked his way through struggle after struggle, always the honest man, until at the culmination of his life he was called to the Presidency, and during his occupancy of that great office, contributed several masterpieces of English composition to the classic eloquence of the world. Listen to this, near the close of his first inaugural address to the then seceding states:

"I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies, though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the union, when again touched as they surely will be, by the better angels of our nature."

"The man that said that earned his first dollar in a flat-bottomed boat on the Mississippi river. Because he was one of the plain people he loved so well; because from his lowly origin he became "king o' men;" because he thus justified faith in man as man, and showed the possibilities in our common humanity; he is very dear to the American heart.

Why Lincoln is Reverenced.

There is another reason why we love and reverence the memory of Lincoln; why that rough, uncouth exterior of his became, and will ever remain, beautiful in our eyes. It is because there shone through it such an exaltation, such a depth, of consecrated, faithful, patient, tender, personal character. If it were a great honor, it was also a hard and trying service to which Lincoln was called. Duly elected to the Presidency, he saw his country breaking up, and it was his first duty to hold it together, to keep it indissolubly one.

Through several years of war for the accomplishment of this end, weighted down with unusual responsibilities, he was in the last analysis responsible for the public policy. When great defeats came to the Union cause we may well imagine how his heart was tried. When generals in the field did not succeed in doing the work to which they were assigned, we may well imagine what sleepless hours were his. And when, in the midst of all his cares, he was pestered by men who sought to make money or get office out of the situation, we may well imagine how he was shocked, and irritated, and troubled.

We all know to-day how he kept the faith, how courageous he was, how patient he was, when occasion called for it how considerate and kindly he was. He sought advice, he weighed it well, and then he acted for himself. There had been some discussion in the cabinet as to the proper time for issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. Finally, at a cabinet meeting one day, he said: "The time for the enunciation of the Emancipation policy can be no longer delayed. Public sentiment will sustain it, many of my warmest friends and supporters demand it, and I have promised God that I will do it."

Thus it was frequently, in the presence of trying situations, that he highly resolved in the solitude of his own great nature. If at times of greatest public stress some mother came to him to plead for a son, some wife to plead for a husband and father about to be shot for some important though unintentional disobedience of military law, he would always stop to listen sympathetically, and how many times under such circumstances he gave the order which saved human life is part of the record of those years.

Always Patient.

A great humility, and a great humanity were his. Smaller men than he are elated and made proud by victories. He was too earnest, too sincere to ever think of himself in such ways. Smaller men than he might become indignant, even to the loss of temper, when unjust criticism rolled about their heads. He felt that he was a servant of the people, and he tried to make himself and his own action an embodiment of the purpose and the will of the people. Lowell sang of him:

Great captains with their guns and drums
Disturb our judgment for the hour,
But at last silence comes;
These all are gone, and standing like a tower
Our children shall behold his fame,
The kindly, earnest, brave, foreseeing man
Sagacious, patient, dreading praise, not blame,
New birth of our new soil, the great American.

His Great Character.

What now shall we say are the great qualities of character which his life has emphasized for us, and to which his memory is a constant summons.

First, let us say, honesty. He was so strictly honest in all the relations of life, large and small, that for the years just preceding the war and during it, it was common to prefix the word to his name. His old law partner said:

"Ask Mr. Lincoln to do a wrong thing and he would scorn the request: ask him to do an unjust thing, and he would cry, 'Begone.' Ask him to sacrifice his convictions of the truth and his soul would indignantly exclaim, 'The world perish first.'"

In these days when it is so common for men in every kind of life (to think it is all right in the interests of trade, of politics, of society) to say what is not true when the occasion seems to require it, how this example

of an honest mind and an honest heart shines out in guidance and rebuke.

Second, manly integrity. He had an idea and an ideal of what a man ought to be, and he tried to live them. It was not in his line to be mean, to enter into intrigues or take any unfair advantage whatsoever. On the eve of the great convention in 1860, he received a telegram saying that his chances for the nomination depended upon obtaining the votes of two delegations, which were named, and that to secure this support he must pledge himself, if elected, to give places in his cabinet to the respective heads of those delegations. Without a moment's hesitation he sent over the wires this reply: "I authorize no bargains and will be bound by none." It takes a man of strong moral quality, when at a critical moment his immediate destiny is hanging in the balance, to meet temptation in such a way as that. Lincoln did it, because of an integrity of character which could not be touched Who of us in private or in public life but needs a like integrity?

Third, forgetfulness of se'f. He believed fully in democratic institutions, and he was absorbed in their service. How much this quality ennobles its possessor; the disposition to give self in uncalculating devotion to the work to which one is called. There is a doctrine abroad now, as there was then, that when anybody has rendered service to his party or his country he is entitled to some recognition in return. Lincoln found his satisfaction, where a'l true souls must, in the thought of the service rendered. As Emerson says, "The reward for a good thing doue is to have done it." Beyond that, the truly great think nothing of themselves, and ask nothing for themselves. So it was with Lincoln. He forgot himself in enthusiasm for the work he did. We may well, all of us, emulate this quality of his and make it over into our own lives.

Kindly Nature.

Fourth, great kindliness of heart. No exigency of the moment, no pressure of sombre duties cou'd make Lincoln forget that. It was the habit of his life. It was as much a part of him as speaking or breathing or thinking were It stands out again and again in the history, the tender sympathy always open to appeal, always quick to respond. How much that quality of character is needed in a life which is to do justice a'l round. There was no quality which said more for the great humanity of the man thin this. He lived in this respect that for which Portia pleads as she faces Shylock, the mercy which in a gentle soul must always temper justice and make it thereby the more beautiful. It is for you and for me, and for all human kind to learn the lesson well.

Fifth, largeness of view. In the day when there was dictinctly a Southern spirit, and a Northern spirit, he stood for the national spirit; partly, of course, through force of circumstances, but I think also because of his innate sensibilities. Everywhere his influence was felt in this way. He could see, better than most men, the problem in its wholeness. So he took one step after another, in the work set him to do, sometimes slowly but always surely. Breadth of view, ability to understand every phase of a question, to see it from every point of observation. You and I, and all men, need that to-day, if we are to go forward to the tune of even-handed justice and brotherly live. Our action, when it comes, will not be less vigorous and firm for being well considered and intelligent.

A True Soul.

Sixth, public spirit, the absolute subordination of private interests and considerations, in the presence of public duty. That is always the way with a true soul which knows itself and its time. It was so with Lincoln. He gave himself in life, as truly as in death for his country and her cause. Did this when it was hard to do it. How much the American people—to-day need to ponder upon that illustrious example. The men who will not vote when their votes are needed, who will not make themselves felt when their influence is needed, because they are considering dividends, because their only idea of their country is the opportunity it offers them to look after their own affairs—they need to take to heart the lesson of this great life. To sink private spirit in the presence of public spirit—to be able to do this—is plain duty. Lincoln set a high example in this respect. Blessed will America be when her citizens know how to follow it, and emulate it.

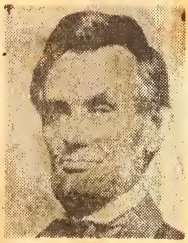
His Faith and Belief.

Seventh, Spiritual quality. Lincoln belonged to no church. He said: "I have never united myself to any church because I have found difficulty in giving my assent, without mental reservation, to the long, complicated statements of doctrines which characterize their articles of Belief. When any church will inscribe over its altar as its sole qualification for membership, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,

Louisville Times
Louisville, Ky.
2/9/61

Lincoln's Example

FEB 9 1961



Abraham Lincoln

Again we pause to pay tribute to one of the great American patriots of all time in the observance of Abraham Lincoln's birthday, February 12. What can be said on this occasion that history has not already recorded? Today we live in a world filled with strife, confusion and perplexity. On every hand people are running up one blind alley after another seeking something tangible to hang on to. They have tried everything this world has to offer but it has not worked.

On the authority of God's word the American people and around the world today will never have grace of mind, body and soul unless they make Christ the center of their lives. The greatest tribute we could pay our revered President of the Civil War era would be to humble ourselves before God and earnestly seek His will for our lives.

JIMMY HINES.

Peoria, Ill.

HIRSCH ON LINCOLN

Speech of the Eloquent Rabbi Delivered in New York.

TOOK GOTHAM BY STORM

Chgo. Jr-O

Lessons That Profitably May Be Taken Home by Young Men.

The Great Emancipator Held Up as a Shining Example of American Citizenship.

Feb. 16 1896

The New York papers speak in terms of highest praise of the address of Rabbi Hirsch in that city on Feb. 12. We republish the part of the address referring particularly to Lincoln, Illinois, and Chicago:

"Illinois is the happy possessor of many treasures and much wealth. Her rolling prairies reward without stint the court paid them by plow and hoe; her rivers lend their backs willingly to keels heavily laden with the fruit of her children's labors. The steel bands along which pulsates the life-blood of commerce have laid their interlaced network across the territory in wonderful exuberance, and have crowned her a reigning princess over the wide stretches of land contiguous to her borders; she has at her door the freedom of an inland ocean; in her bosom she carries a legacy of no mean value of black diamonds; her hamlets betoken the thrift of her people; her towns have always been vocal with clanking hammers, and the whir of heavy wheels as long as from the Nation's capital no schemes were dreaded to weaken American industrial independence and American honesty.

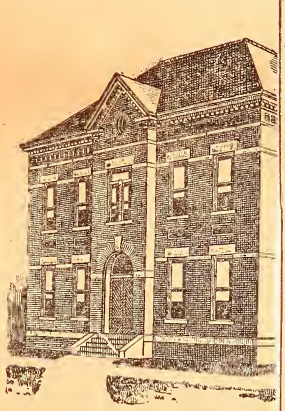
"Her metropolis in itself a Babel of all the tongues spoken on God's footstool, young though she be, even now weary of ranking second in the hierarchy of the populous queens of the evening's hemisphere, and taking mighty strides to realize her burning passion to be first, confident in the omnipotence of her self-conscious, 'I Will,' which has turned tides of disaster into torrents of triumph, which made her, for the whole republic, the dignified hostess of all civilized nations, and gave her the daring to change by the wand of her matchless determination a yawning swamp into a paradise, a dream of beauty, the White City of wonders.

"Chicago, the first among the daughters of Illinois, erst the synonym of stupendous storehouses of sustenance for material man, is become the patroness of art and the sciences. She has made luminous her smoke-curtained sky with the beacon fires of learning and philanthropy, for which the civic pride of her sons has founded homes on a scale rivaling the establishments of the ancient world. The winds which sweep her streets have been given a new voice. They speak no longer the dialect of the grossly material; they prophesy near achievements in the realm of the ideal. But all the riches of prairies and river; all the wealth of quiet hamlet and busy hives of men; the clatter of foundries and the clinking of hammers; the puff of locomotives and the shriek of steamers—what do they token when held over and against the one distinction of Illinois, to have been the homestead of Grant and Logan, of immortal, incomparably great and good, honest old father Abraham Lincoln? (Long and continued applause.)

"The people of Illinois feel that such distinction, the ownership and trusteeship of such a memory, inspires and entails higher obligations. Noblesse oblige can appeal more pressingly to none than to the people of a state the escutcheon of which might display in its heraldic devices the linked monograms of such names. A nation over whose stage giants have passed will ever after be measured by their gigantic stature. It is true, each generation is confronted with tasks and beset with difficulties that are peculiar to its age. The conflict in which Lincoln bore such a signal part is forever ended. Its passion is dead, it has mellowed with the pathos of remembrance, bringing tribute to the matchless heroism on either side, and the unparalleled valor on the part of both armies.

"The American soldier, whatever the color of the uniform he wore, has good cause to dwell upon the mighty drama, which, the climax of decades of distrust and diplomatic attempts at compromise, required four fearful years to run its length, and with the sharp edge of a sword the harassing perplexity of a "house divided against itself" was finally adjudicated and removed. With the impassioned party cries of those glorious days none may conjure at this hour. The boys in blue and their comrades in gray have clasped hands across flower-bedecked graves, and will shoulder the musket only, and then to march out to the quickstep of the same motive, should ever their one flag need defenders, against foreign insolence or aggression. (Applause.) Against the unbroken bulwarks of their living breasts no enemy can prevail; against their bastions he would be hurled to death and fall back in inglorious defeat.

"Patriotism is the never failing solvent of all difficulties. It will demonstrate its saving grace also in our years. The Republicans of Illinois are, indeed, anxious to be baptized anew in the spirit of the great patriot who laid his life on the altar of country and duty. Patriotism such as he



LINCOLN'S NI

had is not a matter of noise, of gewgaws, of insignia. It is a matter of personal devotion to higher interests than those of self and class.

"Peace in a democracy calls for as loyal soldiers of duty as did the war. Deserters and bounty jumpers are out of place in the army corps gathered to defend the flag of freedom. Political indifference and apathy and patriotism for revenue only are the civil equivalents for what the vocabulary of the camp designates as shirkers and bounty jumpers. In a republic none may be disenfranchised except by process of law for crimes committed. But none has the right to disenfranchise himself. He is part of the people; through his will that of the people finds voice. He must, therefore, speak lest his silence muzzle the tongue of all or deprive it of its clear articulation.

"But politics is a muddy business. Political indifference of many has made it so. Lincoln, too, was a politician. In a republic every citizen must be a politician. (Applause). Public business is his business.

Hirsch, Rabbi

If he refuse to make it so let him not complain if those arise who, having no private business, turn public affairs into private concerns of their own, for their own gain and profit exclusively.

"But politics is partisan. Yet Lincoln was both a partisan and a patriot. Such partisanship as was his is the highest coefficient of patriotism. Without party antagonism and discussion stagnation of thought will ensue. Winds must blow from different points that life be sustained on earth. The Republican party has demonstrated its right to be by its achievements. Sponsored by such men as Fremont, Lincoln, Washburne, Seward, Chase, it has spread strong and broad the foundations of national industrial independence and national financial integrity.

"But upon past accomplishments none can ground his claim to present recognition. Yet we, Republicans of Illinois, firmly believe the principles of our Republicanism are sound; that they point the way to the solution of our troubles, fiscal and financial, in a manner conducive to the welfare of the whole country and all its interests, and comporting with the honor and independence of our land. We believe that Republicanism is a matter of principles first, a question of persons and places only in so far as through persons and in office these principles are made effective. Some political parties have their usefulness along negative lines alone. They act as irritants, and thus keep their opponents to mind their p's and q's. American history records the beneficent work done in this role by a certain political party, which has its only excuse in the necessity of a counterweight to Republicanism, lest Republicans wax, like Israel of old, too fat and kick. (Laughter.)

"This party has achieved much good in relieving Republicans occasionally of the obligations to apologize for shortcomings, for its shortcomings are so enormous as to cause ours to dwindle into insignificance. This party allows, at long intermittent intervals, Republicans to taste the 'bitterness of exile,' and thus to 'pull itself together' and learn the secret of introspection. But so little of positive possession is within the reach of this party that the moment it comes into power it must turn Republican in order to save the credit of the Nation or uphold the flag. The signs are many that the people of this country are through flirting with this party of everlasting negatives, and will lay its destinies into the hands of a party chastened of its shortcomings, that will once more emphasize the industrial independence of this Nation, and will give a new impetus to trade and enterprise.

"A healthy Americanism this Illinois Republicanism would have the Nation cherish, an Americanism broader than that narrow counterfeit thereof which forgets the lessons of American history, and would reduce this land of ours to the compass of a New England, while in reality it is the new world. I honor the Puritans. To them the country owes its moral backbone. But the country is too large to be merely New England. Before the revolution, even, all nations of Europe contributed to the manhood of America. Lincoln's volunteers counted among their battalions thousands and thousands who had not seen the light of their first day on this side of the Atlantic. Birth should make the American, but it has not done so in every case. Adoption has, however, also the spell to build the true America. Many native to this shore scarce know what "Old Glary" signifies, while by the thousands are those counted who, born under other skies, have elected the stars and stripes to emblem their faith in freedom's unconquerable destiny. In their homes they have no emblem to which they ascribe more sacramental significance. The flag of freedom, copy of the sky, with the stars of the night, the bars of the light, and the white of God's innocence! (Tremendous applause.)

J WRIGHT

Hoag, C. E.

SAYS LINCOLN HAD LITTLE BUT FAITH ON WHICH TO BUILD

REV. C. E. HOAG POINTS TO HUMBLE PARENTAGE, ENVIRONMENT OF EMANCIPATOR.

LOVE FOR FELLOW MAN HELPED MAKE HIM GREAT

Grand Rapids Herald 2-12-23

What mesage is the pulpit bringing to Grand Rapids?

To answer this question The Herald each Monday prints salient parts of the Word as preached the day before in some church or other religious meeting place of this city or its environs.

Chapel, as well as temple, is included in The Herald's quest.

"Usually, when Lincoln is compared with any Bible character," said the Rev. C. A. Hoag of Trinity Community M. E. church yesterday morning in his sermon on "The Secret of Lincoln's Greatness," "he is compared with Moses, liberator of the Jews.

"But it seems to me," said the pastor, "that there is a very genuine kinship between the first Hebrew and the first American, between the ancient and modern Abrahams. Their resemblances are: First, by faith. God endows His sons with manifold gifts. Moses had a gift for law. David for music, Shakespeare for poetry, Daniel Webster for eloquence. Father Abraham of the Jews was gifted with faith. I believe that all men of the first order in every age are men of faith. I believe, too, that faith was the supreme gift of our western Abraham, that it was by faith, not by learning or eloquence or brilliance or genius, that Lincoln went forth to cut down the dark and tangled slave forest that had become so deeply rooted on American soil.

Lincoln's Last Great Act

"The last act of congress that Lincoln signed was a bill decreeing that on our coins should be placed the inscription 'In God We Trust.' Lincoln was led by God through faith and wrought superhumanly by faith; he himself said that faith in God is indispensable to successful statesmanship.

"There is not so very much difference between Lincoln and the thousands of others about him if we except one quality, faith. Because of the handicaps in life, that life should be a powerful encouragement. There is not much to look for in the heredity of Lincoln, nor in his environment. The bold robber spirit of the east made possible Alexander; the intellectual spirit of the renaissance made possible Shakespeare; the devotion of a nation to the science of war brought forth Napoleon. But there is no such way of accounting for Lincoln. His people were poor whites of Kentucky. The ambition of most of the people by whom he was surrounded was to make and drink mountain whisky, swear, fight and shoot each other up. He inherited nothing from his father and but little from his mother. Hardly a boy in Grand Rapids hasn't more advantages than had Lincoln. When he was 19 he was barely able to read and scrawl his name.

"He was chastened by sorrow and defeat, by the loss of his mother, then the loss of his sweetheart. He loved her with all the power of his great nature, but instead of leading her to the altar he followed her to her grave. Store keeping left him so deeply in debt that he was compelled to go out and split rails to pay his debts. He studied law, but had no wide education or extensive reading. His clients were few and poor. His office was bare and, they say, dirty.

Furnishes Great Example

"But today we ask young men to look at the character of Lincoln, whose monuments rise from nearly every park. Young men who hear me this morning, your chance is better than was his. What was it that made Lincoln great? It was faith. If the Lord Christ had been here when Lincoln was doing his work I think he would have said: 'I have not found so great faith in the church of God as in Lincoln.'

"The other element in Lincoln's life which made him great was love for his fellowman. When he addressed those who had been in rebellion he said, 'we are not enemies but friends; we must not be enemies—though passion may have strained, it must not break bonds of affection; the mystic cards of memory stretching out from each patriot's grave to every heart and hearthstone will yet swell the chorus of the Union when touched by the angels of our better nature.'

Lincoln was able to love his most bitter enemies. When at the close of the war Jefferson Davis fled from Richmond some one said in Lincoln's presence, 'Jeff Davis ought to be hanged.' Charles Sumner says he replied as his Master might have replied, "judge not that ye be not judged."

"These two, faith and love," concluded the pastor "were the great characteristics of Jesus. And since Jesus, in my judgment, there has not arisen a greater soul than Abraham Lincoln."

Congressional Record
February 11, 1957

Hoch, Homer

A Tribute to Abraham Lincoln

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF
HON. EDWARD H. REES
OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 11, 1957

Mr. REES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Phil E. Zimmerman, past national patriotic instructor for the United Spanish War Veterans of Kansas, has forwarded me a copy of a tribute to Abraham Lincoln by Homer Hoch, a former Member of the United States Congress from the district that I now have the honor to represent. I am sure the Members of the House and Senate, as well as the public generally, will be impressed by Mr. Hoch's tribute. He said:

There is no new thing to be said of Lincoln. Nor is there a new thing to be said of the mountains or the sea or the stars. The mountains ever tower in solemn majesty above the drifting clouds; the mysterious sea ever sobs upon the shore, and the silent stars ever keep holy vigil above a tried world—but to mountain and sea and star men turn forever in unwearied homage. And thus was Lincoln. For he was mountain in grandeur of soul; he was sea in deep undervoice of sadness and mystery; he was star in steadfast purity of purpose and of service. And he abides. With the name of Lincoln tears are called from old men's eyes, and with the name of Lincoln childhood learns to lisp a patriot's devotion. And there is no new thing to be said of him—what need, for such as he. But while the Republic stands on whose altar he laid his great mind and heart, while liberty is cherished, while civic virtue and service and sacrifice are honored in the the earth, the name of Lincoln will be spoken in undying love by the sons of men.

Hoch, Justice Homer

Abraham Lincoln

February 12
1809-1865

And above all (with) an unshaken faith in the Supreme Ruler of Nations, I accept this trust.—Abraham Lincoln.

Justice Homer Hoch's Tribute.

There is no new thing to be said of Lincoln. Nor is there a new thing to be said of the mountains or the sea or the stars. The mountains ever tower in solemn majesty above the drifting clouds, the mysterious sea ever sobs upon the shore, and the silent stars ever keep holy vigil above a tired world—but to mountain and sea and star men turn forever in unwearied homage. And thus with Lincoln. For he was mountain in grandeur of soul, he was sea in deep under-voice of sadness and mystery, he was star in steadfast purity of purpose and of service. And he abides. With the name of Lincoln tears are called from old men's eyes, and with the name of Lincoln childhood learns to lisp a patriot's devotion. And there is no new thing to be said of him—what need, for such as he! But while the republic stands on whose altar he laid his great mind and heart, while liberty is cherished, while civic virtue and service and sacrifice are honored in the earth, the name of Lincoln will be spoken in undying love by the sons of men.

hospital grounds shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of War.

SEC. 4. That an amount sufficient to pay the necessary costs and expenses of the condemnation proceedings taken pursuant hereto, and for the payment of the amounts awarded as damages, is hereby authorized, payable out of the revenues of the District of Columbia; the amounts collected as benefits to be covered into the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the revenues of the District of Columbia.

Mr. MONDELL. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to address the committee for two minutes out of order.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Wyoming asks unanimouse consent to address the committee out of order for two minutes. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

Mr. MONDELL. Mr. Chairman, this is the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. If it were not for the fact that we are approaching the close of the session with a very great deal of business needing attention, it would be proper and seemly, and I am sure that all of us would be disposed, to devote a considerable portion of this day to exercises in memory of the great emancipator, the savior of his country, the man in whose memory a grateful people have just erected a magnificent monument on the banks of the Potomac. Notwithstanding the fact that the press of important public business prevents an extended program, we all desire, I am sure, that we shall have at least a brief program in honor of the martyred President; therefore I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. HOCH] may have five minutes in which to address the committee on the life and services of Abraham Lincoln.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Wyoming asks unanimous consent that the gentleman from Kansas be given five minutes in which to address the committee on the life of Abraham Lincoln. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

Mr. HOCH. Mr. Chairman, as the gentleman from Wyoming [Mr. MONDELL] has said, it is well that we pause even in the midst of the pressure of business to-day to note the fact that this is the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. One hundred and fourteen years ago to-day he was born, and for half that many years now he has "belonged to the ages."

There is no new thing to be said of Lincoln. There is no new thing to be said of the mountains, or of the sea, or of the stars. The years go their way, but the same old mountains lift their granite shoulders above the drifting clouds, and the same mysterious sea beats upon the shore, and the same silent stars keep holy vigil above a tired world. But to mountain and sea and star men turn forever in unwearied homage. And thus, with Lincoln, for he was mountain in grandeur of spirit; he was sea in under voice of mystic loneliness; he was star in steadfast purity of purpose and of service. And he, too, abides. The years go their way, but with the name of Lincoln childhood still learns to voice a patriot's devotion, and with the name of Lincoln tears are called from old men's eyes, and there is no new thing to be said of him. But while the Republic endures, upon whose altar he laid his great mind and heart, while liberty is cherished, while civic virtue and service and sacrifice are honored in the earth, the name of Lincoln will be spoken in undying love by the sons of men. [Applause.]

Mr. MONDELL. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. UPSHAW] may address the committee for five minutes upon the subject of Abraham Lincoln.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Wyoming asks unanimous consent that the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. UPSHAW] be permitted to address the committee for five minutes upon the life of Abraham Lincoln. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

Mr. UPSHAW. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the House, unexpectedly bidden to this moment, I felt that I would be recreant to every impulse of patriotism and national good will if I did not respond, although I had no time for preparation. Fortunately, any real American, appreciating rugged worth and lofty genius and rejoicing in the present fellowship of our reunited country, needs no specific preparation to speak a word of honest admiration for that great, typical American, Abraham Lincoln. [Applause.] In that immortal message of Henry W. Grady before the New England dinner, the message that arrested the hearts of the Nation as the first southerner who had been invited to attend a New England society since the Civil War, he uttered that inspiring declaration concerning Lincoln. Doctor Talmage and General Sherman had talked about the ideal American as yet to come, when Grady said, "I am here to say to you that the ideal American has already come in the person and the spirit of Abraham Lincoln." No other man who has given himself to the building of American thought and American ideals had so much in his veins or in his place of birth or in the atmosphere that shaped his early manhood and his political affiliations to make him the typical American, capable of being honored alike by the sons of the South and the sons of the North. [Applause.] And really, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues, if I may be permitted a suggestion, I think that no celebration of Lincoln's birthday or of Washington's birthday, as for that, can ever be complete in this House if tribute is paid only by a son of the North. Lincoln carried in his veins and in the simple glory of his cabin birth the blood of the South, and in his ideals the inspiration and training of Illinois, the robust spirit of the West and the North.

We love, in an hour like this, to think of him, not as born in Kentucky or reared in Illinois, but as a son of all America [applause], and it is fitting, I think, Mr. Chairman, regardless of the personal equation, that the son of a Confederate soldier whose father taught his boys around the family altar to love the flag of their reunited country, should be permitted in this National House of Representatives to lay a tribute of faith and love and honor upon the stainless name of Abraham Lincoln. [Applause.] May I add this other word. I rejoice not in divisions and partisan contentions but in the national fellowship of an hour of common purpose. I am a son of the South—I plead guilty to the soft impeachment; I was born beneath the ambient blue of her arching skies, I was rocked in the cradle of her beauty and glory, I am proud of her priceless contribution to the building of this Nation; but, loyal as I am to the memory of my fathers, their traditions and their heroic loyalties, I love always an hour like this that makes us forget the aisle between us and the lines of political and sectional cleavage—that makes us shake hands as one people beneath the beauty of those stars and the glory of those stripes that we all love so well. [Applause.]

I love to think of another thing in this hour, when official leadership and personal example are so greatly needed. I know some of you will smile when I say it, but go on and let the smile widen into nation-wide approval. I love to remember that Abraham Lincoln, recognizing the responsibility of leadership, wrote with his own hand and signed with his own pen a pledge of total abstinence from strong drink, and urged the young manhood of America to follow his example. [Applause.]

And if he were living now, with his God-fearing spirit and his clear-headed patriotism, he would declare that the supreme question before the American people is the integrity of the Constitution, the majesty of the law, and personal and national sobriety. As a son of the South, as a friend of sobriety, law and order, and as the friend of an all-embracing Americanism, I rejoice to crown the memory of Abraham Liacoln, the typical American. [Applause.]

Mr. FOCHT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. ZIHLMAN].

Mr. ZIHLMAN. Mr. Chairman, I am unable to understand just why there should be opposition to this bill, as stated by the gentleman from Texas a few moments ago. This bill has the approval——

Hoch, Homer

Lincoln

There is no new thing to be said of Lincoln; nor is there a new thing to be said of the mountains or the sea or the stars. The mountains ever tower in solemn majesty above the drifting clouds, the mysterious sea ever sobs upon the shore, and the silent stars ever keep holy vigil above a tired world, but to mountain and sea and star men turn forever in unwearied homage; and thus with Lincoln, for he was mountain in grandeur of soul, he was sea in deep undervoice of sadness and mystery, he was star in steadfast purity of purpose and of service, and he abides. With the name of Lincoln, tears are called from old men's eyes, and, with the name of Lincoln, childhood learns to lisp a patriot's devotion; and there is no new thing to be said of him—what need for such as he. But while the Republic stands on whose altar he laid his great mind and heart, while liberty is cherished, while civic virtue and service and sacrifice are honored in the earth, the name of Lincoln will be spoken in undying love by the sons of men.

—Homer Hoch of Kansas.

2-20-41

Hoch, Homer
TRIBUTE 1923

A Beautiful Tribute.

Ex-Governor Hoch has long been reckoned one of the finest public speakers in Kansas and he has held his own with the best of them on the chautauqua circuit. His son, Homer, is the congressman from the Fourth district and appears to be a "chip off the old block," and then some. The other day, it being Lincoln's birthday, Congressman Mondell, Republican floor leader in the lower House of Congress, asked unanimous consent that a few minutes be taken to pay tribute to Abraham Lincoln. Consent was given and Mr. Mondell called upon Congressman Hoch to speak for the Republican side of the House. Mr. Hoch responded in one of the most beautiful little tributes the House ever listened to. Mr. Hoch said:

"Mr. Chairman, as the gentleman from Wyoming (Mr. Mondell) has said, it is well that we pause even in the midst of the pressure of business today to note the fact this is the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. One hundred and fourteen years ago today he was born, and for half that many years now he has belonged to the ages.

"There is no new thing to be said of Lincoln. There is no new thing to be said of the mountains, or of the sea, or of the stars. The years go their way, but the same old mountains lift their granite shoulders above the drifting clouds, and the same mysterious sea beats upon the shore, and the same silent stars keep holy vigil above a tired world. But to mountain and sea and stars men turn forever in unwerried homage, And thus, with Lincoln, for he was mountain in grandeur of spirit; he was sea in undervoice of mystic loneliness; he was star in steadfast purity if purpose and of service. And he, too, abides. The years go their way, but with the name of Lincoln childhood still brings to voice a patriot's devotion, and with the name of Lincoln tears are called from old men's eyes, and there is no new thing to be said of him. But while the Republic endures, upon whose altar he laid his great mind and heart, while liberty is cherished, while civic virtue and service and sacrifice are honored in the earth, the name of Lincoln will be spoken in undying love by the sons of men."—Leavenworth Times.

Troy Kans

THE KANSAS CHIEF · THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1923

Homer

Hoch, Homer

Lincoln

Topeka Daily Capital 2/12/39

There is no new thing to be said of Lincoln. Nor is there a new thing to be said of the mountains or the sea or the stars. The mountains ever tower in solemn majesty above the drifting clouds, the mysterious sea ever sobs upon the shore and the silent stars ever keep holy vigil above a tired world—but to mountain and sea and star, men turn forever in unwearied homage. And thus with Lincoln. For he was mountain in grandeur of soul, he was seat in deep under-voice of sadness and mystery, he was star in steadfast purity of purpose and of service. And he abides. With the name of Lincoln tears are called from old men's eyes, and with the name of Lincoln childhood learns to lisp a patriot's devotion. And there is no new thing to be said of him—what need, for such as he! But while the republic stands on whose altar he laid his great mind and heart, while liberty is cherished, while civic virtue and service and sacrifice are honored in the earth, the name of Lincoln will be spoken in undying love by the sons of men.

—HOMER HOCH

Hoch, ~~Herman~~ Homer

Nothing New to Say

ONE OF THE most impressive of all tributes to Abraham Lincoln was penned many years ago by Homer Hoch, then editor of the Marion (Kansas) *Record* and now a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas:

"There is no new thing to be said of Lincoln. There is no new thing to be said of the mountains, or of the sea, or of the stars. The years go their way, but the same old mountains lift their granite shoulders above the drifting clouds, and the same mysterious sea beats upon the shore, and the same silent stars keep holy vigil above a tired world. But to mountain and sea and star men turn forever in unwearied homage. And thus with Lincoln. For he was mountain in grandeur of spirit, he was sea in under-voice of mystic loneliness, he was star in steadfast purity of purpose and of service. And he, too, abides.

"The years go their way, but with the name of Lincoln childhood still learns to voice a patriot's devotion, and with the name of Lincoln tears are called from old men's eyes. And there is no new thing to be said of him.

"But while the Republic endures, upon whose altar he laid his great mind and heart, while liberty is cherished, while civic virtue and service and sacrifice are honored in the earth, the name of Lincoln will be spoken in undying love by the sons of men."

Hoch, Homer

A Prose Poem of Lincoln

Probably no living ex-governor of any state has a more intimate personal knowledge of Abraham Lincoln than Joseph Fifer, of Bloomington, Illinois. Recently, James O'Donnell Bennett in the Chicago Tribune has presented a series of articles on Illinois reminiscences by Private Joe, the dean of ex-officials of the state. In these sketches many personal references to Lincoln appear. One of the most interesting is the following:

Private Joe's
Favorite Lincoln Tribute
(For the authorship of which he searched six years.)

There is no new thing to be said of Lincoln. There is no new thing to be said of the mountains, or the sea, or of the stars. The years go their way, but the same old mountains lift their granite shoulders above the drifting clouds, the same mysterious sea beats upon the shore, and the same silent stars keep holy vigil above a tired world. But to mountains and sea and stars men turn forever in unwearied homage. And thus with Lincoln. For he was mountain in grandeur of soul, he was sea in deep undervoice of mystic loneliness, he was star in steadfast purity of purpose and of service. And he abides.

—HOMER HOCH.

January 5, 1936. 3/14/36

The above should find a place in every Lincoln collection. wk by wk

The Gem of the Month.

A TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN

OF THE thousands of tributes to Abraham Lincoln, none has been more ably expressed than the following which was written by Homer Hoch, a Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court:

"There is no new thing to be said of Lincoln. There is no new thing to be said of the mountains, or of the sea, or of the stars. The years go their way, but the same old mountains lift their granite shoulders above the drifting clouds, and the same mysterious sea beats upon the shore, and the same silent stars keep holy vigil above a tired world. But to mountain and sea and star, men turn forever in unwearied homage. And thus with Lincoln. For he was mountain in grandeur of spirit, he was sea in under-voice of mystic loneliness, he was star in steadfast purity of purpose and of service. And he, too, abides forever.

"The years go their way, but with the name of Lincoln childhood still learns to voice a patriot's devotion, and with the name of Lincoln tears are called from old men's eyes. And there is no new thing to be said of him.

"But while the Republic endures, upon whose altar he laid his great mind and heart, while liberty is cherished, while civic virtue and service and sacrifice are honored in the earth, the name of Lincoln will be spoken in undying love by the sons of men."

Philadelphia - The Evening Bulletin
2/12/38

Hodges, Leigh Mitchell

The Optimist

THE boy child born 129 years ago today in a log cabin near Hodgenville, Kentucky, was the son of a carpenter, and his mother was a carpenter's niece. He came into a family that was poor, but most of the people of that day and region were poor. That made it necessary for everyone who could work to work hard.

In later years, when this unknown boy had become widely known, he said of the nation he was steering through stormy seas: "If ever this free people; if this government itself is ever utterly demoralized it will come from this incessant human wriggle and struggle for office, which is but a way to live without work."

He had grown up to be one of the most human persons in history. He had no false dignity, he said exactly what he thought or felt in the simplest language, he loved fun and laughed loud and often, he believed in prayer and made frequent use of it, he was notably unselfish and patient, and along with Benjamin Franklin, he made commonsense his chief guide.

As companions to these virtues and excellent qualities he housed a good many of the faults and frailties common to all of us, and this fact should lift him the higher in our estimation, and enlarge his abiding influence as a great inspirer. For if he had not had to deal with these hindrances, he would deserve no special praise of what he made of himself. And by the same sign, we could not hold for him that feeling of human kinship which vitalizes the desire for emulation.

He was honest and fearless, and because he had been compelled to work for a living he knew and understood the situations that face the majority of us who have to work to live. These qualities made him truly great, and neither New Deals nor 'isms have lessened their value or supplied substitutes for them.

LEIGH MITCHELL HODGES

Holmes, Rev. John Haynes

SAYS NATION PUTS LINCOLN NEXT TO THE SON OF GOD

Dr. Holmes Calls Emancipator's Face That of an Angel.

NEVER BELONGED TO A CHURCH

Committee Completes Plans for Friday's Memorial Exercises, Which Will Include 650 Meetings.

A special service in celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln was held yesterday in the Church of the Messiah, Park avenue and Thirty-fourth street. It was one of the first incidents in the memorial programme for the entire city which will reach its culmination in Lincoln's birthday, next Friday, when there will be 650 separate meetings in honor of the memory of the Great Emancipator.

The service yesterday was marked by a sermon on "The Religion of Lincoln," by the Rev. Dr. John Haynes Holmes, and by a brief recital of personal recollections of Lincoln by the Rev. Dr. Robert Collyer. The Rev. Mr. Holmes began by saying the Nation revered Lincoln next to the Son of God, and said that to Americans today Lincoln's face was as the "face of an angel."

"Lincoln's life was full of contradictions," continued the preacher. "His mother was a Free Will Baptist, his father was a little the same, and his wife was a Presbyterian, but Lincoln would have none of church denominations or creeds. He never belonged to any church.

"The salient characteristic of his life was reason. His reason forbade his becoming a member of any Christian church. We are told he had no belief in miracles. He believed in the laws of nature and often remarked, we are told, that God would surely not violate His own laws, and that therefore there was nothing to miracles as miracles. They must either have a spiritual significance or the men who wrote them were at fault. He did not believe that the men who wrote the different books of the Bible were inspired.

"Lincoln had a belief in God that was sublime, yet the doctrine of the Trinity had no place in his mind. He was a constant reader of the Bible, which he considered the greatest book in the world. He had a profound contempt for dogmas, and one of his secretaries reported him as saying: 'The more a man knows of theology the further away he gets from Christianity.'

"Although Mrs. Lincoln said, 'Technically speaking, my husband was never a Christian,' Lincoln was one of the most truly religious men that ever lived. The great things in his life were absolute childlike trust in some things and belief in God and constant resort to spoken prayer. He believed that God lived and ruled this universe, that He interfered with the laws of men when things became too corrupt, and that he, like all other men, was merely a humble instrument of God on earth. Lincoln did not know any church; he knew only God."

Dr. Collyer moved his listeners by his talk on Lincoln.

"I saw Lincoln's face three times," he said, "and heard his voice once. The first time I saw him was in the spring of 1860 in a theatre in Chicago. I looked at his face and turned to a young man sitting beside me and asked who that man was up there. The young man replied, 'Abe Lincoln.' As I looked at him, and especially into his eyes, I was spellbound. The next time I saw Lincoln was in Washington, where I heard him talk. Then I saw his face one day as his body lay in the Court House in Chicago."

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, rabbi of the Free Synagogue in West Eighty-first street, speaking on "Lincoln and the New Americanism" to his congregation yesterday, protested vigorously against the caste spirit which he declared was growing daily, and against the attitude of the South toward the negro. He asserted that "unless Lincoln's work is be shown to have been done in vain, the South must not fix upon servitude as the eternal portion of the negro race."

The Lincoln Centenary Committee appointed by Mayor McClellan finished its work yesterday for the formal celebration on Friday. It has arranged for memorial exercises in all the public schools, for meetings in all parts of the city, and for the reading of the Gettysburg Address in the theatres. A Lincoln medal of bronze in four sizes will be sold. At 8 a. m. Friday, national and State salutes will be fired. The national salute will be fired by every ship and fort in the harbor, while the State salute will be fired by the naval militia vessels and three field batteries.

A meeting in Cooper Union at 2 o'clock will be addressed by Mayor McClellan, Joseph H. Choate and the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott. At a meeting in Carnegie Hall General Horace Porter will preside and Bishop Alexander Walters and the Rev. A. V. Raymond will speak. Richard Watson Gilder will read an original poem called "On the Life Mask of Abraham Lincoln." Another meeting will be held in the College of the City of New York. President McGowan of the Board of Aldermen will preside, and Andrew S. Draper will speak. Otto Goritz of the Metropolitan Opera House will sing, and the United Singers of New York will have a chorus of 700 voices. Professor Stockton Axson will deliver an oration in the Thirteenth Regiment Armory, Brooklyn. Music for these meetings will be provided by members of the Metropolitan Opera House orchestra and the New York Symphony. Many important meetings have been arranged for the evening. Tickets of admittance will be required for the Carnegie Hall and Cooper Union meetings. Tickets may be obtained of Hugh Hastings, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Lincoln Centenary Committee. Admittance to other meetings will be free.

COLLYER

Hopkins N. J.

16 THE EVENING STAR
Washington, D. C.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1954

Oliver Wendell Holmes' Letter Of 1879 Found; Praises Lincoln

By the Associated Press

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Oliver Wendell Holmes describes Abraham Lincoln's speech at Gettysburg as a masterpiece "from the first" in a recently discovered letter.

The assessment of Lincoln's "few simple words" and their impact upon the people at Gettysburg was made by Dr. Holmes in a letter to an old friend.

At the time of Lincoln's brief speech it generally was overlooked. Most had attended the dedication of a Union cemetery at Gettysburg to hear an illustrious orator of those days, Edward Everett.

Dr. Holmes, doctor, author and scholar, wrote as one who was at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863. His letter to Dr. F. Peyre Percher of Charleston, S. C., 16 years later says:

"The circumstances attending Mr. Lincoln's brief remarks are worth recalling. It was at the dedication of the cemetery in which the slain of the Battle of Gettysburg were buried November 19, 1863, that they were delivered.

"Edward Everett, our famous scholar and orator, was the speaker of the occasion and delivered a patriotic and eloquent oration. But the few simple words of Abraham Lincoln went to the heart of the Northern people as no elaborate rhetoric ever could.

"You will read them now as you could not then, and recognize their noble strength and unconscious sublimity. There are one or two obvious blemishes—— an obstetrician might object that there was a confusion of sexes in the first paragraph, but nothing has prevented its being recognized from the first as a masterpiece."

Dr. Holmes included in his letter a copy in his own hand of the Lincoln speech.

The "blemish" Holmes, a doctor, spoke of apparently referred to the words "our fathers."

Mr. Everett also was one of the few who recognized the greatness of Lincoln's words, for he wrote the President the next day:

"I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion in 2 hours as you did in 2 minutes."

The Holmes letter was recently found among the literary holdings of the Rosenbach Co.

Hopkins, R. J.

2/12/1936 THE KANSAS CITY STAR, WED

IF LINCOLN WERE ALIVE

JUDGE R. J. HOPKINS SPEAKS AT TOPEKA LUNCHEON.

Great Emancipator Would Oppose Abandonment of Individual Initiative and Regimentation of Men, Kansan Believes.

TOPEKA BUREAU
THE KANSAS CITY STAR
(By a Member of The Star's Staff.)

TOPEKA, Feb. 12.—Richard J. Hopkins, judge of the United States court for the district of Kansas, asserted today that if Abraham Lincoln were alive he would oppose abandonment of individual initiative and the regimentation of men.

Judge Hopkins was the speaker at the Lincoln birthday luncheon of the Hi-Twelve Club of Topeka.

Judge Hopkins pointed out a fact unknown to many Kansans. This was that Lincoln played an important part in the building of the Union Pacific railroad, both before he became President, as a member of congress and as an Illinois citizen interested in the development of the West. He showed that Lincoln, as President, had given much time and thought to the railroad program of the West.

In outlining the high lights of Lincoln's life and his career Judge Hopkins said, in part:

"Seventy-one years have passed since Mr. Lincoln's death. In that time he has held more of the world's attention than any other historical personage. Endless research has followed his shadow from the cradle to the tomb. Every thought that he uttered, every line that he wrote has been critically examined. Every trait of his character, every mood of his mind, every feature and expression in his face, his figure, his pose, his movement, has been described in paint or print.

THE FIRST WORLD CITIZEN.

"Great crises produce great men. The streams of civilization, flowing onward, sometimes carry heroes upon the crest of the wave. Abraham Lincoln, the product of the forests of Kentucky, towers head and shoulders above all as a world figure. A forlorn backwoods boy became the head of a great nation in a crisis affecting the fate of the world. An obscure country lawyer became the leader of a great cause. An unlettered man of the people spoke in such lofty eloquence that his speech became classic. Without origin, without training, without an external attraction, without a worldly advantage, this lowly born child of a poor and shiftless father made his way out of the wilderness and became a great lawyer, a leader of men, liberator of the slave, deliverer of his country.

"What was this man that he has taken such a wondrous hold on the world? What was there in him or about him that causes an admiring world to follow his steps? It is said that 'there is no accounting for genius. It has neither ancestors nor descendants. Its coming is neither discerned nor heralded, nor can its arrival be afterwards explained.' Genius is the child of destiny—of necessity. The great men of the republic have, ordinarily, come from the lowly—from the common people. Lowliness progagates and nurtures ambition. Poverty is the universal mother of great men.

"No great man ever had luxury for a father; no palace ever cradled the king of thought, the king of service, the king of achievement. The choicest blessings of the soul are knowledge, usefulness, love, contentment. Riches never did command joy. Destiny conspires with men and women who live much out of doors, who have experienced the vicissitudes of rough life, who have toiled with nature, who have 'breasted the storm.' When destiny sought this child of genius she turned her back on the mansion and the palace. She went to that humble home in the forest. There she kept her vigil and led forth the child of genius, Abraham Lincoln. He was a new type, an unspoiled product of nature.

ALWAYS ON SIDE OF TRUTH.

"Suffering taught him great sympathy. Sympathy for men extended his influence. From a gentle stepmother he learned the beauty of kindness. Men loved him for his simplicity of life, his honesty, his genuine kindness, his utter lack of selfishness. His personality was fascinating.

"It is said that 'he possessed a wonderfully logical mind.' Like other lawyers of his time, he tried, on the circuit, cases of every kind, both civil and criminal. His success in the defense of persons charged with crime appears to have been extraordinary. The records of the supreme court of Illinois indicate that he never appeared in that court on behalf of any person charged with a felony. It was said that he never knowingly defended a person charged with crime unless he believed the accused to be innocent. He crossed swords in the arena of his profession with the greatest lawyers of his day. He was employed, not only in the state courts, but in the United States circuit and supreme courts.

MANY TALENTS WERE HIS.

"Mr. Lincoln was perfectly acquainted with the political questions of his day. He discussed them at taverns and country stores; at voting places, at court, and on the stump. No man of his time was better equipped for intellectual conflict. He had the power of accurate statement, was candid, sincere. He knew the average mind, the thoughts of the people, the hopes and prejudices of men. His sympathies and ties of kindred were with the South. His convictions, his ideals and his sense of justice were with the North. He was endowed with a mentality which was equaled by but few men. From his youth he was an admirer of Henry Clay. He adopted most of Clay's principles as his own, especially that of the gradual compensated emancipation of slaves.

"The name of Abraham Lincoln is everywhere—the world around—the greatest among those associated with thec ause of popular government. However much he reflected on forms of government, it was with a dominant interest in something beyond them. No political theory is emphasized by his words or actions; but they show a most unusual sense of the possible dignity of common men and common things. He faced the difficulties and terrors of his high office with that same mind with which he had paid his way as a poor man or navigated a boat in rapids or in floods."

Hopkins, Richard J.

The Springfield Register 2/12/27

HOPKINS PAYS TRIBUTE TO GREAT EMANCIPATOR

Legislature Adjourns to Hear Federal Judge.

It Is Pointed Out That Lincoln Rose To All His Greatness Thru and After Failures.

"These are times in which we all can do well to study Lincoln, and fashion our ways as nearly as possible after him," Federal Judge Richard J. Hopkins told members of the state legislature, meeting in a joint session in the house of representatives yesterday afternoon. Judge Hopkins was invited to speak as a part of the legislature's observance of Lincoln's birthday.

He reviewed the emancipator's life from early childhood thru his term as president. He pointed out that Lincoln had become determined to do what he could to free the slaves 31 years before he issued the emancipation proclamation; he had visited an auction block in New Orleans in 1832.

"His career at the bar was almost as remarkable and successful as his work in the legislature and as president," Judge Hopkins said. He praised Lincoln's logical mind and mentioned the fact that his name appeared in 175 cases which had come before the Illinois supreme court.

It seems incredible, Judge Hopkins said, that a little over a half century ago our constitution, our laws, our judges, our pulpits, and our press defended the institution of slavery.

Of Lincoln's Gettysburg address, he said, "He delivered the most notable short speech ever delivered in the English language."

Success was not always Lincoln's, the speaker said. He rose to the presidency after failing in business and being defeated for the state legislature once, for the speaker of the house, for the office of elector, for congress, for United States senator twice, and for vice president.

Both the house and senate recessed for an hour to hear Judge Hopkins' address. Both houses adjourned late yesterday until Monday, the house convening at 10 a. m. and the senate at 1:30 p. m.

Hopkins, Richard J.

LINCOLN'S FAME BORN OF CRISIS

Kansas City Journal

Martyr to Freedom Destined to Immortality, Justice Hopkins Says.

By The Associated Press.

TOPEKA, Feb. 12.—Tribute to Abraham Lincoln was paid tonight on the anniversary of his birth by Justice Richard J. Hopkins of the Kansas supreme court.

"Sixty-three years have passed since Lincoln's death," Justice Hopkins said in a public address. "In that time he has held more of the world's attention than any other historical personage.

"Every trait of his character, every mood of his mind, every feature or expression in his face, his figure, his pose, his movement has been described in paint or print. On wings of pathos and tragedy his story has encircled the globe.

"Great crises produce great men. Without training, without an external attraction, without a worldly advantage, this lowly born child made his way out of the wilderness and became a great lawyer, a leader of men, liberator of the slave, deliverer of his country.

"His was a life of pain, suffering and sorrow, yet one of virtue, nobility, grandeur of spiritual vision and final victory.

"He sleeps the eternal sleep, but his spirit clothed with a new and ever widening influence goes marching down the ages giving to men the impluse to achievement and high endeavor. When all other greatness is forgotten history and legend will remember him as the emancipator of a race, and a martyr of freedom.

"He belongs to the ages."

HIL - HOP